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Friday, December 5, 2025 No 335 ₹7

# Putin begins high-profile India visit amid West's glare


**Business** Fitch raises India's GDP forecast P.12

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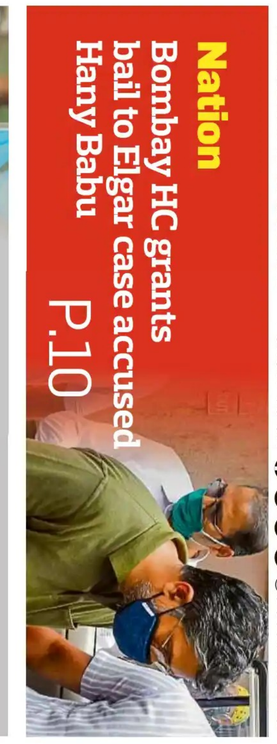
**Nation** Cong expels rape-accused Kerala MLA from party's primary membership P.9

**Nation** Bombay HC grants bail to Elgar case accused Hany Babu P.10





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# US tightens screening for H-1B, H-4 visa applicants

**Social media checks expanded under Trump administration**

*Page 11*

# Hate speech to attract 7-yr jail, Rs 50k fine

## State Cabinet okays Bill, may come up in winter session

BENGALURU, DHNS

Making 'hate speech' and circulating it will attract up to seven years in jail and a fine of Rs 50,000, the Congress government has proposed in a new law under which authorities can go after rabble-rousing individuals and organisations.

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, approved by the Cabinet on Thursday, may be introduced in the winter session of the legislature starting December 8.

The minimum jail term for hate crimes is one year with Rs 50,000 fine. A repeat offence will attract 2-10 years' jail and Rs 1 lakh fine. Offences will be cognisable and non-bailable.

Even an organisation or institution, defined by the Bill as an "association of persons...registered or not", will be held guilty if it engages in hate speech or crime.

▸ Hate speech, Page 5

Law against social boycott okayed, Page 5

Nod for Hebbal tunnel, elevated road, Page 2

**CURBING HATE**

**Hate speech:** Any expression made, published or circulated with an intention to cause injury, disharmony, feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will against persons (dead or alive), a class or group of persons or community, to meet any prejudicial interest

- Prejudicial interest is bias against religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.

**Hate crime:** communication, publishing or circulation of hate speech or any act of promoting, propagating, inciting, abetting or attempting such hate speech.

**Punishment:** 1-7 years' in jail, Rs 50,000 fine; 2-10 years' jail, Rs 1 lakh fine for repeat offence.

# Putin begins high-profile India visit amid West's glare

## Modi breaks protocol, receives Russian president at airport

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes Russian President Vladimir Putin at Delhi airport on Thursday. AFP

**WHAT IS AHEAD?**

- Modi, Putin will hold 23rd India-Russia annual summit
- To finalise a roadmap to boost bilateral economic cooperation by 2030
- Will sign an agreement to streamline legal mobility of skilled and semi-skilled people from India to Russia
- Discussion on Russia's proposal for the sale of SU-57E fighter jets, additional S-400 missiles
- Will explore ways to expand India's exports to Russia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Russian President Vladimir Putin at Delhi airport on Thursday, making a rare departure from protocol to signal continuity in the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two nations, despite US President Donald Trump's claims of success in persuading India to slash its oil imports from Russia.

Notwithstanding the West's frowns over New Delhi's ties with Moscow, Modi and Putin will on Friday hold the 23rd India-Russia annual summit and finalise a roadmap to boost the bilateral economic cooperation by 2030, apart from witnessing the signing of several other agreements.

Modi hugged Putin at the tarmac of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi as the Russian president disembarked from his aircraft, commencing a two-day visit to India – the first after he launched a full-scale military operation in Ukraine in 2022. The two leaders rode the same vehicle to leave the airport, just as they had done while attending the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at Tianjin in China a couple of months back.

"Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin, to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow," Modi wrote, posting pictures of him with Putin, on X. "India-Russia friendship is a time-tested one that has greatly benefitted our people."

"Our relationship extends beyond mere diplomacy; it's also personal," Putin said, speaking about his rapport with Modi during an interview with a TV channel.

The PM later hosted a dinner for the Russian president at his residence on the Lok Kalyan Marg.

▸ Putin, Page 5

## 'Niche tech' cooperation

Defence ministers of India and Russia on Thursday agreed to enhance collaboration on "niche technologies" without disclosing anything on specific defence projects that the two countries have been pursuing.
Details on Page 8

## US suspends sanctions on Russia oil giant

The US on Thursday extended authorisation for Lukoil-branded gas stations outside Russia to continue operating, suspending some sanctions on the Russian oil firm.

## No LoP meeting: Rahul attacks govt

Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the government is telling foreign leaders not to meet the LoP due to its 'insecurity'.
Details on Page 8

# IndiGo: Pain for 2-3 days, normalcy by Feb

NEW DELHI, DHNS

IndiGo customers will continue to face difficulties for the next 2-3 days with the country's biggest airline on Thursday informing the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that there will be more cancellations of services during this weekend while giving an assurance that it will normalise operations by February next year.

After a meeting with the airline officials chaired by Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, the DGCA said IndiGo informed that it will reduce its flight operations to minimise disruption from December 8 while assuring that normalised and stable operations will be fully restored by February 10 next year.

Passengers at Bengaluru airport on Thursday. PTI

Around 400 domestic and international services from airports in Bengaluru, New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad among others were cancelled during the day, upsetting the travel plans of thousands of fliers, even as the airline officials unveiled their proposal to tide over the crisis to the regulator.

▸ Flights, Page 5

## Racing hit by glanders fear

The Winter Season at the Bangalore Turf Club faces cancellation after five horses reportedly tested positive for the contagious glanders disease, an outbreak that has already paralysed racing in Hyderabad and Chennai.
P 13

## Acid attacks: SC seeks trial info

Terming tardy trials in acid attack cases as a "mockery of the system", the SC has directed all the HC to submit details of such pending cases within four weeks. It also mooted the idea of setting up special courts for expeditious disposal of the cases.
P 10

## SC asks states to provide more staff to EC for SIR duty

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Taking note of a plea alleging extreme work pressure faced by the booth level officers (BLOs) engaged in the time-bound special revision of the electoral rolls, the Supreme Court directed the states on Thursday to consider deputing additional employees for reducing their working hours.
Details on Page 9

**NEGATIVE TREND**

# K'taka foreign tourist footfall plateaus

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of foreign tourists visiting Karnataka is beginning to plateau, having failed to recover since the pandemic-induced dip in numbers. This year, up until October, the state saw only 3.5 lakh foreign tourists. With just two months left in the current year, the figure is far below the 2019 figure of approximately six lakh.

Industry insiders blamed safety concerns and poor marketing strategies for the trend. In October, the state saw only 19,472 foreign tourists — a sharp drop from the 50,366 footfalls in October 2024.

▸ Tourism, Page 5

## Tourism conclave today

The Department of Tourism is organising a tourism conclave in Bengaluru on December 5, aiming to share ongoing cultural and tourism developments in Karnataka with foreign diplomats stationed in the state capital.

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## New non-AC BMTC bus ops

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has launched the following non-AC bus services:

**369NR:** Sri Renuka Yellamma Layout and KR Market via Vaddarapalya, Yalenahalli, Satya Sai Temple, Bilekahalli, Jayanagar 9th Block East, and Jayanagar Bus Stand.

Two buses will make 18 one-way trips daily.

**362CR:** Sri Renuka Yellamma Layout to Shivajinagar via Vaddarapalya, Begur, Bommanahalli, Adugodi, and Mayo Hall.

Two buses will make 24 one-way trips daily.

**343R:** Sri Renuka Yellamma Layout to KR Market via Vaddarapalya, Begur, Bommanahalli, Dairy Circle, and Lalbagh Main Gate.

Two buses will make 16 one-way trips daily.

The BMTC has also extended the route number 364 F from Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) to BTM 4th Stage Stadium.

# Gandhi Bazaar footpath clearance an 'eyewash' as encroachments return

**Operation will be a mere gimmick without solving vendors space, shelters and parked vehicles**

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The much-publicised Gandhi Bazaar footpath clearance by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) is already being dismissed as an eyewash.

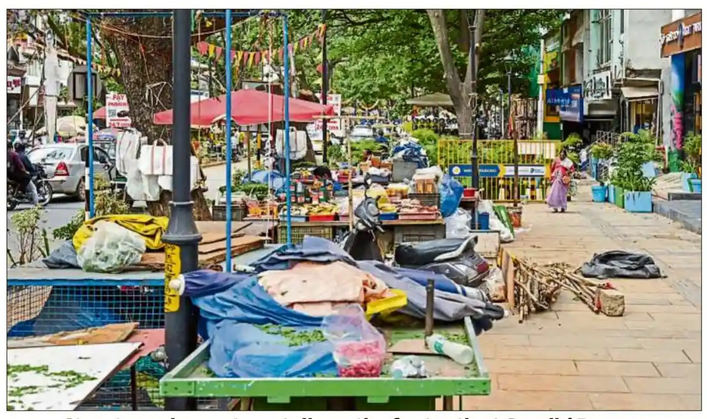
The operation drew widespread attention from residents, traders, and urban planners alike, many of whom voiced frustration over the lack of meaningful enforcement.

Some local residents said previous clearance drives had also failed to bring lasting change, with footpaths quickly returning to their cluttered state.

Traders argued that they have little support from authorities in finding legal spaces, while pedestrians described daily struggles to navigate the footpath maze.

The drive began after BCCC Commissioner Rajendra Cholan ordered the removal of unauthorised vending. Led by Chickpet Executive Engineer Pradeep, the team used two JCBs, seven tractors, and 40 staff to clear tarpaulin shelters and five shops.

Cholan said the operation followed repeated warnings to vendors to stay within allotted areas. "About 120 stalls were told to use their allotted space. Despite repeated requests, encroachments remained."



Street vendors set up stalls on the footpath at Gandhi Bazaar in Basavanagudi. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

But ground checks show encroachment and footpath misuse returned almost immediately, undermining the corporation's claims of restoring pedestrian rights.

### Shelter shortage

The BCCC aimed to force vendors into designated areas, but District Vendor Association president Gautham said clearing tarpaulin shelters did not address the need for lasting roof protection.

Many vendors, needing shelter, moved back onto the footpaths within hours of the BCCC team leaving.

"We face problems during rains due to lack of shelters. The road should be widened to 80 feet to accommodate us," said Ravi KC, a fruit seller.

### The two-wheeler takeover

The unchecked return of two-wheelers shows the drive was a temporary fix.

Vendors and locals argue the lack of parking forces motorists onto footpaths, an issue the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) failed to address.

Even where vendors have been pushed back, parked scooters and motorcycles block footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk on the busy road.

Vendors say the drive targeted them, but ignored the high volume of vehicle parking that blocks pedestrian movement.

The BCCC has warned repeat encroachers, but with vendor space, shelter, and parking unresolved, the operation appears a gimmick over real urban planning.

# Rs 2,215-cr tunnel, elevated road okayed for Hebbal–Mehkri Circle

**Govt pushes ahead with project despite finance dept's concerns**

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state cabinet on Thursday approved a Rs 2,215-crore infrastructure project that includes a 2.27-km short tunnel at Hebbal Junction and a 1.27-km elevated corridor at Mehkri Circle.

The approval comes a day after senior officials overseeing Bengaluru's civic affairs met to prepare a defence for the project, even as the Finance Department remained unconvinced about the costs and the project's effectiveness in easing congestion.

Briefing reporters, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil confirmed the cabinet's nod for constructing a twin-lane tunnel and an elevated corridor between Hebbal and Mehkri Circle. The Urban Development Department (UDD) had placed the proposal before the cabinet seeking administrative approval to float tenders.

In its justification, the UDD said widening the existing road is challenging due to land acquisition hurdles. It argued that the short tunnel and elevated corridor—along with the proposed 16.75-km North–South tunnel and East–West elevated corridor — would serve as long-term traffic solutions.

The department, headed by Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath, added that the short tunnel would particularly benefit residents of Sanjaynagar, RT Nagar, Ganganagar and Ashwathnagar, as two-wheelers and autorickshaws will not be allowed in the 16.75-km tunnel.

**DECONGESTION PLAN**

**Twin tunnel (cut & cover) Hebbal flyover to Veterinary College via GKVK premises**
- Length: **2.2 km**
- No of lanes: **3**
- Cost: **Rs 1,490 cr**

**Two-lane bi-directional elevated corridor connecting proposed East-West elevated corridor with rotary, up and down ramps**
- Length: **1.70 km**
- Cost: **Rs 725 cr**

The UDD also said it had consulted the Bengaluru Traffic Police, professors from BMS College of Engineering and private consultancy Arcadis, which reportedly estimated that the project could reduce congestion by 40%.

While Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) had hired New Delhi-based Rodic Consultants to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has been tasked with executing the project and will fund it entirely through internal resources.

### Under the lens

When the proposal reached the Finance Department, it raised several concerns, including the high project cost, the choice of a cut-and-cover underpass over a surface road, the project's likely impact on congestion, and the possibility of new bottlenecks.

The department returned the proposal to the UDD seeking clarifications.

On December 3, senior officials met to address these issues. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is believed to have attended the closed-door meeting at the BMRDA office on Ali Asker Road.

In its response, the UDD said that a surface-level road was initially considered, but the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University refused to part with the required land, prompting a shift to a tunnel design.

Addressing concerns about new bottlenecks, the UDD said the elevated corridor would integrate with the East–West elevated road, creating a rotary-like interchange at Mehkri Circle. It also noted that the BDA has already earmarked the necessary funds.

Based on these submissions, the cabinet okayed the project.

## KR Puram–Nagawara service road shut for pipeline work

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Commuters on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between KR Puram and Nagawara will face disruptions from Thursday as the BWSSB begins pipeline maintenance work in the area.

KG Halli traffic police issued an advisory announcing a week-long trial closure of vehicular movement on the Ambedkar Ground service road. The restrictions will be in place till December 10. Traffic police have urged motorists to plan ahead and use the designated alternative routes to ensure smoother movement during the civic works.

### Restricted corridors

The ORR service road from KR Puram towards Nagawara and the Thanisandra stretch between Ambedkar Ground Junction and Nagawara Junction.

### Diversion routes

**Vehicles from Thanisandra to Hebbal:** Turn left at Nagawara Junction, take U-turn at Hennur Junction, proceed to Hebbal.

**Vehicles from KR Puram to Nagawara/Thanisandra:** Turn right at HBR Layout 1st Cross (near Forest Office), take mandatory right onto Nagawara Main Road.

**BMTC buses from KR Puram to Nagawara/Thanisandra:** Left at Malabar Junction, proceed on HBR Layout 1st Main Road, right onto 5th Cross Road, left onto 14th Main Road, right onto Nagawara Main Road.

## Dodda Alada Mara access cut off for 9 months as rail bridge work begins

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The South Western Railway (SWR) has announced the closure of a key road link for nine months for the construction of a road underbridge in western Bengaluru.

The road connecting Dodda Alada Mara Road from Bengaluru–Mysuru Road/Ramohalli Railway Gate No 16, between the Kengeri and Hejjala railway stations, will be closed from Sunday to facilitate the construction of an RUB in lieu of level crossing number 16.

The work is aimed at "improving road safety and easing traffic flow in the region", a long-term benefit expected to alleviate the frequent traffic congestion caused by the existing level crossing, SWR said.

Commuters who regularly use this route, particularly those heading towards Ramohalli and the famous Big Banyan Tree (Dodda Alada Mara), are advised to plan their journeys meticulously, SWR said.

## KC General Hospital gets CBNAAT machine for advanced TB diagnosis

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** KC General Hospital, Malleswaram, has installed a CBNAAT (Cartridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) machine to enhance its tuberculosis diagnostic capabilities.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated the facility on Thursday.

The machine, donated by Syngenta India Pvt Ltd under its CSR initiative, is one of seven handed over to the state government.

The minister said CBNAAT provides faster and more sensitive results than routine microscopy, delivering TB confirmation in just 90 minutes even when the bacterial load is low.

He urged individuals with persistent symptoms to make use of the upgraded service.

## Evening of percussion performances

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Sunaada Art Foundation will host a series of percussion performances on Saturday, 5 pm onwards, at Naadashree Artspace, Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Layout.

Titled 'Aspiration Series', the evening will feature tabla duets by Roopak Vaidya and Kaushik Bhat, and by Shrihari Diggavi and Atharva RG, as well as a mridangam solo by Nagendraprasad. Entry is free.

## BJP leader alleges 500-acre govt land grab in Tavarekere

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP leader NR Ramesh on Thursday alleged that politicians, in collusion with Bengaluru Urban district officials, have illegally taken over nearly 500 acres of government land in Tavarekere, Bengaluru South taluk.

NR Ramesh

The former corporator has filed complaints with the Lokayukta and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Ramesh said the accused created fake documents to claim ownership of the land. He highlighted a 106.37-acre parcel in Survey Number 68 of Deva Machohalli village, comprising 45.15 acres of Sarkari Gomala land and the rest classified as government 'A' and 'B' kharab land.

Another disputed plot is a 35.24-acre tract in Survey Number 4 of Yalachaguppe Rampura village, of which 16.26 acres is gomala land and the remainder kharab, he said.

Ramesh further alleged illegal occupation of 90.14 acres in Survey Number 19 (Ganakallu village); 2 acres in Survey Number 20/2 (Yalachaguppe village); 85.09 acres in Survey Number 116 (Kurubarahalli village); 113.07 acres in Survey Number 158 (Kuruvarahalli village); and 3.07 acres in Survey Number 159 (Tavarekere village).

Citing a total of eight cases of land grab, he said an earlier attempt in 2006 had failed after the government rejected a khata transfer request. However, in 2022, revenue officials allegedly created a khata using a fictitious survey number.

Ramesh estimated the land scam to be among the biggest in Bengaluru, valued at around Rs 12,000 crore.

## BEML to roll out Pink Line prototype train today

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based PSU BEML is set to roll out the first train for Namma Metro's Pink Line on Friday, ending six months of uncertainty over the prototype, sources in the know told *DH*.

The six-coach trainset will be unveiled in the presence of senior BEML management and BMRCL officials.

It will, however, take a few more days to dispatch the train from BEML's New Thippasandra plant. The prototype will be moved 20 km to the Kothanur depot by trailers.

Originally slated for delivery in June 2025, the prototype was delayed due to shortage of key equipment and delays in type tests, *DH* reported on November 7.

The delay has raised concerns about the BMRCL's plans to open the Pink Line's 7.5-km elevated section by May 2026. The BMRCL needs 6-8 trains to begin operations.

In August, BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy had told *DH* that 20 trains would be delivered by March 2026.

A file photo of a Pink Line prototype coach under manufacture at BEML Bengaluru.

But at the current pace, BEML is unlikely to supply eight trains in the next five months.

BEML won a Rs 3,177-crore contract on August 7, 2023, to supply 53 driverless trainsets — 37 for the Blue Line and 16 for the Pink Line.

It later received a Rs 405-crore top-up order for seven more Pink Line trains and another Rs 414-crore order for six Yellow Line trains.

Once the prototype arrives, the BMRCL will seek statutory approvals from the Ministry of Railways, the Research Designs and Standards Organisations (RDSO) and the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for the new rolling stock.

The Pink Line is slated to open in two phases — the elevated section in May 2026 and the 13.76-km underground section (Dairy Circle-Nagawara) in December 2026.

Meanwhile, BEML has secured a Rs 157-crore contract to manufacture 15 sets (30 cars) of Switch Rail Grinding Machines from Loram Rail Maintenance India Pvt Ltd.

These machines, designed for precision grinding of railway switches and crossings, will support Indian Railways' efforts to modernise track maintenance and improve operational efficiency, BEML said.

The equipment enables easy boarding, deplaning, and terminal movement directly from the wheelchair.

## Bengaluru airport unveils India's first mobility assist system

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) launched 'Mobility Assist', an advanced assistive support system, on Thursday.

The equipment, first of its kind in India, can mechanically assist children and passengers with reduced mobility directly from their wheelchair during boarding, deplaning or intra-terminal movement, said Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the airport.

"It reduces physical strain, minimises risk and ensures a more comfortable experience for both passengers and staff. This service will be available upon request through Airline Coordination, ensuring passengers with reduced mobility receive personalised, end-to-end support tailored to their needs," BIAL added.

This equipment has been donated by Dr BS Ajaikumar, Founder & Executive Chairman of Healthcare Global Enterprises (HCG), in memory of his son, Adarsh Ajaikumar.

Speaking at the event, Dr Ajaikumar said, "The contribution is deeply personal for us. During our travels, Adarsh endured great discomfort due to the lack of appropriate support equipment. Yet, he chose to turn that pain into purpose. The 'Mobility Assist' represents his wish to help others like him travel with ease, and comfort. We hope this becomes a model that airports across India can adopt."

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Deccan Herald in Education (DHiE):** DHiE Expressions, inter-school dance competition; Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park; 10 am.

**Karnataka Sate Employees Association Hall:** Advocates Day, release of MK Nagaraj's book 'Criminalistic Forensics'; BV Acharya, K Aravind Kamath, MB Jayram, DR Ravishankar and others; Hall premises, Cubbon Park; 5 pm.

**CULTURAL**

**Kala Darshini Trust:** Inauguration of Srushti Chitra Sambhrama; Jayashree Kasaravalli, Roopa Mohan; Trust premises, 16th Cross, JP Nagar; 5.30 pm.

**RELIGIOUS**

**Sri Nandikeshwara Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali:** Yakshagana recital 'Sri Manikallu Kshetra Mahatme'; Durga Parameshwari Temple, Chandra Layout; 6 pm.

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Mist

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 27.0°C |
| Minimum | 20.0°C |
| Rainfall | -- |
| Humidity | 91% |
| Sunset (Dec 5) | 5:52 pm |
| Sunrise (Dec 6) | 6:28 am |
| Moonrise | 5:12 pm |
| Moonset | 5:30 am |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

**ALCOHOL ON BOARD**

# Private operators report 30-40 drunk drivers every month, industry insiders say

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Passengers and operators warn of increasing drunk driving on night and interstate bus routes.

A viral video shows a drunk bus driver refusing to stop, despite repeated passenger requests. On the Kozhikode-Bengaluru route, the conductor was found passed out next to the driver.

Similar incidents have been reported on the Tamil Nadu-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Mangaluru routes, with some cases involving both drivers found with alcohol on board.

**Special drive targets bus drivers**

- The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) held a special drive for long-distance bus drivers on November 28, from 8 pm to 11.30 pm.
- Of 2,583 private buses checked, 16 drivers were booked for drunk driving. Cases were filed and licences sent for suspension.

- The timing targeted the surge of weekend outbound buses, said Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).
- A similar drive in West Bengaluru last week found five drunk drivers among 1,035 buses checked.

Most major operators confirm catching drunk drivers in similar situations monthly. Most large companies use breathalysers before departure and at stops, but smaller operators do not. Drivers often obtain alcohol mid-journey, with some testing at over twice the legal limit.

A shortage of younger drivers worsens the problem. "Most drivers are older and habitual drinkers, but we cannot replace them as few new drivers join the sector," a manager said.

### New WhatsApp group

To curb habitual offenders, bus operators have formed a WhatsApp group to share details and photos of errant drivers, said Radhakrishna Holla, president, Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association.

"The government must crack down on such drivers. The Rs 10,000 fine usually burdens operators, while drivers go unpunished. Licences must be terminated," he said.

MP Omkareshwari, Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement South), said her department had not received complaints or handled cases of drunk driving.

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## Retired BMTC driver strangles paralysed wife, dies by suicide

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A retired BMTC driver allegedly killed his paralysed wife before ending his own life in Subramanyapura, South Bengaluru.

Venkateshan R (65), who worked in the bus corporation for over two decades, was reportedly distressed by his wife Baby M's condition.

Baby (60) became paralysed after a stroke five years ago. She lost mobility and speech, requiring full-time care.

On December 2, around 12.45 pm, the couple's daughter-in-law returned to find Venkateshan hanging and Baby unresponsive in her wheelchair.

*(If you are struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, help is available. Please reach out for support at 14416 or 1800-891-4416.)*

# Couple bypass airport customs, smuggles 18.5 kg hydro ganja

## Police suspect they functioned as mules for a larger syndicate

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bengaluru couple allegedly smuggled 18.5 kg of hydroponic ganja from Thailand, evading airport checks before police intercepted them.

Police said the drugs, worth about Rs 18.60 crore, were seized from Saifuddin Sheikh, 34, a mechanic from Kammanahalli, and his wife, Sara Simran, 26.

Investigators suspect the couple acted as drug mules for a larger syndicate.

A tip-off on November 30 led police to Rani Abbakka Playground in Mahalakshmi Layout, where two suspects were spotted with large quantities of narcotics. Sheikh and Sara were detained at the spot, allegedly about to hand over the contraband. Police found 18.59 kg of hydroponic ganja in their bags.

Mary Shylaja, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Malleswaram sub-division, oversaw the investigation.

The hydro ganja, worth about Rs 18.60 crore, seized by the police.

"The bags averaged 2 kg each. The couple had no criminal record, likely why they were chosen as mules," a police investigator said.

Investigators said the couple travelled from Bangkok to Bengaluru with the drugs, likely on a tourist visa. "The drugs were wrapped in food packaging. Shockingly, they passed through customs and airport security undetected," a senior officer said.

Asked how the suspects evaded customs, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said, "It has to be verified during the investigation." "Specific inputs have been received on others involved."

Mahalakshmi Layout police booked the couple under the NDPS Act. A court remanded them to 10 days' police custody. Further investigation is underway.

### Other seizures

In related cases, police in RMC Yard, RT Nagar, JC Nagar, and Malleswaram arrested eight people, including a foreigner, and seized ganja and MDMA worth about Rs 15.90 lakh.

Police seized 28 SIM boxes, 1,193 SIM cards, a laptop, three routers, a portable CCTV camera and documents. The seized haul is worth about Rs 40 lakh, say police.

# CCB busts int'l call conversion racket; suspect on the run

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's Central Crime Branch (CCB) has exposed a fresh illegal SIM box racket, used to convert international calls into local calls.

This marks the third such bust in recent months.

A suspect from Kerala is absconding, hiding in Dubai, according to investigators.

Following a tip-off, police raided a makeshift data centre in a rented room at Electronics City Phase 2 on November 28.

Inside the locked room, police found 28 SIM boxes, 1,193 SIM cards, a laptop, three routers, a portable CCTV camera and documents.

The seized haul is worth about Rs 40 lakh, police estimate.

Senior officers suspect the data centre played a role in cybercrime operations. The probe continues.

"It was operated remotely. No one was present at the scene. We have identified the suspect and are working to trace him. There are suspicions of financial fraud, and telecom companies have lost revenue," said Seemant Kumar Singh, Police Commissioner, Bengaluru.

# Red sandalwood smuggling operations busted

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In two separate operations, Bengaluru police busted red sandalwood smuggling rings, arresting three people and seizing goods valued at Rs 1.75 crore.

### Car packed with logs

On November 7, acting on credible information, Hulimavu police arrested a suspect and found a car packed with red sandalwood logs.

The arrested, Ahmed Pasha, 29, of Thanisandra, confessed to sourcing the logs cheap from Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, and selling them at higher prices in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh with his associates.

Investigators later recovered 1,143 kg of red sandalwood from Tamil Nadu and Kulumepalya, Bengaluru.

The haul was valued at Rs 1 crore, police said.

In the second case, RT Nagar police arrested two men and seized 754 kg of red sandalwood worth about Rs 75.4 lakh.

The accused are Rajashekar, 29, an MBA graduate, and Varaprasad Reddy, 24, a BTech graduate, both from Andhra Pradesh.

### Suspects unemployed

Investigations revealed that, as they were unemployed, they stole the red sandalwood stored by an unknown person near Madanapelle in Andhra Pradesh and transported it to Bengaluru.

They then attempted to sell it before getting caught.

Further probe is underway.

# Head constable caught on CCTV stealing Rs 11 lakh from suspect's car

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Three cybercrime police investigators are in trouble after a head constable allegedly stole Rs 11 lakh from a car belonging to a cyber fraud suspect, who was brought to the police commissioner's office for interrogation.

The incident occurred a month ago and came to light after the suspect secured bail and realised his money was missing. He approached the Central Crime Branch (CCB).

A scrutiny of surveillance footage revealed that Zabihullah, the head constable in question, walking with the cash bag. However, the cybercrime suspect did not file a formal complaint, a senior CCB officer said.

Still, senior police officers decided to file a suo motu case against Zabihullah and two other police personnel who had brought the suspect for interrogation.

The cybercrime suspect was brought to the police commissioner's office. The footage clearly shows the head constable pulling cash from the car.

A CCB team subsequently visited Zabihullah's residence for inquiry, where his family allegedly created high drama during the search.

Officials recovered only Rs 2 lakh, hidden under a bed. Investigations revealed that the policeman had used the remaining amount to buy jewellery for his wife. Senior officers asked him to repay the remaining sum immediately and the full amount was handed over to the suspect.

Officials said the policemen would be suspended once the inquiry report was submitted.

### Four city cops suspended for dereliction of duty

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Four police personnel attached to different stations have been suspended for alleged dereliction of duty in separate incidents.

Assistant sub-inspector Srinivas Murthy from the Nandini Layout police station was suspended for allegedly failing to register a complaint filed by Nithyananda Murthy, who later highlighted the issue on social media. Senior officials ordered immediate action after the allegations surfaced online.

ASI Jayaramegowda and head constable Dharma, both from the Subramanyanagar police station, were suspended for failing to present witnesses before the court despite receiving summons. Senior police officials cited serious negligence in handling court-related duties.

Nazeer, from the Sanjaynagar police station, was suspended for failing to report for duty at the chief minister's Cauvery residence, where he had been assigned security duty. His absence was viewed as a major lapse in protocol.

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# Maintenance fee ruling sparks debate

Maintenance fee should be charged based on number of people per flat and amenities used, some owners say. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

**A civil court recently ruled that all flat owners should be charged the same fees irrespective of apartment size**

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A recent ruling by a city civil court has left homeowners and apartment associations confused. The court ruled that the size of a home cannot determine maintenance charges and that all flats must pay the same fees.

The ruling goes against an earlier Karnataka High Court judgment that maintenance must be collected based on 'individual share of interest', says Dhananjaya Padamanabachar, convenor, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum. "Home buyers purchase property based on super built-up area and undivided share of interest in the property. The High Court of Karnataka in an order dated October 8, 2025 highlighted section 10 of Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA) 1972 which says that common expenses shall be charged to the apartment owners according to the percentage of the undivided interest (a form of property ownership) in the common areas and facilities," he elaborates.

While the KAOA 1972 prescribes maintenance charges on the basis of apartment unit size (per square feet), there are residential communities which feel that there is a need to consider other factors while calculating the maintenance charges, shares K Arun Kumar, general secretary, Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF). For example, a gym or the swimming pool may not be used by all homes in an apartment complex, the non-users may not want to contribute towards the upkeep and renewal of those amenities. "To address this, BAF has proposed a solution, of 'usage-based-charges', to be incorporated in the upcoming Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Bill (KAOMA). BAF expects that KAOMA will be implemented soon," he reveals.

Dr Chandru C M, association president of Skyway Apartments in Jayanagar, notes that the GST on maintenance fees of flats with an area higher than 1,400-1,500 sqft automatically means that bigger apartments incur higher fees. "It is not viable to keep maintenance charges uniform," he points out. The 14-year-old complex has 71 flats with built-up areas ranging from 1,200 to 4,000 sqft.

Media professional Shivani M K lives in a small apartment block in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, which has a total of nine flats. She owns two flats in the building. "I think it is unfair for smaller flats to be charged the same as bigger flats," she tells Metrolife.

The best way to determine the charges is to calculate them based on the number of occupants in a flat, notes Shyam Rao, a home owner based in Jayanagar. "A flat with more people will use more water, for instance," he adds.

While most homeowners Metrolife spoke to were unhappy with the ruling, some believe it is a step in the right direction. At a 15-year-old apartment complex in Singasandra, fees are currently charged according to the size of the apartment. The building has 42 flats. However, its association members are planning on taking a decision over the next few months following the civil court ruling. "I think all owners should pay the same amount as everyone uses the common resources," says a resident of the building. While hers is a 1,625 sqft unit, "there are larger ones with a garden area on the ground floor".

## POPCORN

### Put one ninety

A complaint now is that many movie stars whose hearts bled when the dollar fell under Manmohan Singh are now silent. Many experts on the Modi side of the fence are spinning the current descent of the rupee differently—a weak rupee should be welcomed, they say, as it encourages us to export more. Looks like economics is now homeopathy: less is more. And politics is irony: Raj Bhavan will be called Lok Bhavan. Not that lok (common folks) will be allowed inside; it's just that opulence has just got a less sinful name. And no, it's not lokma chawal yet.

## EVENTS

**Concert**
The Bengaluru leg of singer Lucky Ali's 'RE:SOUND Lucky Ali India Tour' is scheduled for Dec 6, 7 pm, at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield. Tickets online.

**Anniversary fete**
Alliance Francaise de Bangalore (AFB), Vasanthnagar, will mark its 55th anniversary on Dec 6, 7 pm. The evening will feature tributes to French music composers by Harsha Jade and Poornima Matthan, alongside a performance by the AFB French choir. Entry free. To RSVP, visit @af_bangalore on Instagram.

**Play**
Mahesh Dattani's play 'Dance Like a Man' will be staged on Dec 6, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. The English play centres on three generations of a family, and explores themes of gender roles and patriarchy. Tickets online.

# How long metro rides are creating informal communities

**Bengalureans are making unexpected connections during their commutes, over shared interests**

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Long commutes on Bengaluru public transport have given rise to small communities and unexpected friendships. Complete strangers strike up conversations with each other over shared interests after seeing what the other is reading, watching or listening to. These conversations lead to longer discussions and form accidental communities.

Long commutes on Bengaluru's public transport have given rise to small communities and unexpected friendships. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

### Graphic novels

Sanjana K, a law major at BMS College of Law, shares with *Metrolife* how a stranger recognised the manhwa (Korean graphic novel) she was reading on her phone while heading home from college on the metro. "The genre of manhwa I read is quite rare, and I was engrossed in a psychological horror manhwa when a girl approached me and excitedly mentioned its title, as she had just finished reading it," Sanjana explains. They talked for so long that the stranger — who has now become a close friend — missed her stop. They continued their conversation until the last stop, where they exchanged social media handles and have kept in touch ever since.

Some friendships cut across all age groups. Kushal Shetty, a second PU student, was sketching an anime character while travelling to Tin Factory from Yelahanka on a BMTC bus. He was on his way to participate in a cricket match. An elderly man seated next to him initiated a conversation about his artwork. "He said he used to paint a lot when he was younger, and we spoke until we both got off at Tin Factory. He even watched my match for a bit before he left," he recalls.

### Romantic fiction

Sarrah H, a social media manager for a football club, recalls an experience while taking the metro home late one evening. She was reading a book from a popular romance novel series when she noticed another person on the train reading the first book of the same series. "I was halfway through the last book, and then suddenly two more people got on the train, holding up the second and third books of the series," she recounts.

The four of them began discussing the series, and eventually, another person chimed in, saying they had heard a lot about the author and the series but hadn't started reading it yet. The excitement of the four girls convinced her to give it a try. "The whole experience was surreal," Sarrah adds.

### Cards on the train

Similarly, Anupa Gnanakan has had several experiences befriending strangers on her commutes. She recounts one from a couple of months ago, when she was travelling with her family to Belgaum via train. They were playing cards when her cousin asked the group of friends in front of them to lower the volume of the video one of them was watching. "I don't know why, but the whole carriage burst into laughter after that," Anupa chuckles.

"The boys took it in good spirits, and we spent the next 45 minutes playing cards together until they got off at their stop," she adds. While they had gotten well acquainted, they have not been in touch since.

# Soaring gold prices drive up jewellery rentals

**Jadau-kundan, antique and Victorian designs emerge as top choices this wedding season**

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A staff member showcases jewellery to a customer at a rental store in J P Nagar. CREDIT: SHARUNYA RENTAL JEWELLERY

For 26-year-old software tester Akanksha R from HRBR Layout, it did not make sense to buy gold for her wedding. The soaring prices meant her father would have had to take out a huge loan. For her October-end wedding, apart from her wedding ring and her mother's anklets, all her jewellery was rented.

When Saarika G S accompanied her cousin, who was due to get married, to a jewellery rental store in early November, she found that "the bride's mother and sister were looking for jewellery sets too." The venue for the wedding was a resort in Kerala and the family "did not want to travel with real gold."

Most jewellery rental stores *Metrolife* spoke to observed a dramatic surge in business. At a Malleswaram store, owner Seema T N says bookings doubled this season compared to last year. Most customers choose jadau-kundan or antique gold for weddings, and kundan or Victorian sets for receptions.

Bridal packages start at Rs 2,000 for two days, which includes a long hara (long necklace), earrings, and a maangtika (forehead ornament). More premium sets (Rs 6,000-7,000) include multiple necklaces, bangles, a waist belt, and hair accessories. "Hardly anyone takes just one or two pieces anymore," Seema adds.

Around 70% of brides rent their entire ensemble, with the only real gold being their wedding rings. "Even bridesmaids, mothers, and sisters rent coordinated sets," she notes. Most sets are booked till December 7, with enquiries coming in for functions after January 25. A jewellery store on Muddinapalya Road near Nagarabhavi saw its busiest wedding season since it opened two-and-a-half years ago, with rentals up 60% from last year. Walk-ins surged between October and November, and bookings continue until mid-December, before Dhanur Masam, a period when functions pause.

Owner Priyanka C states that popular rentals include pieces with south Indian styles such as mango motifs, guttapusalu (clusters of small pearls or beads), and bottu mala (a necklace with coin-like pendants).

In a J P Nagar 6th Phase store, co-owner Nikhil M shares: "Of our 30 rental sets, around 50% were booked through the season." Their rentals start at Rs 500 for single pieces like a choker or long necklace, and go up to Rs 3,500 for a full bridal set. "Temple jewellery with Lakshmi motifs, remain one of the most rented styles," he adds.

### Trends

Nikhil, who owns rental jewellery stores in Banashankari and R T Nagar, says that until last year, antique temple jewellery was the top choice. "This year, around 80% booked jadau kemp designs, while some preferred Victorian styles with American diamonds," he adds.

# Two-day environmental film festival this weekend

A festival dedicated to films on the environment and climate change will be held on December 6 and 7 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, from 12 pm to 8 pm. Called the 'All Living Things Environmental Film Festival' (ALT EFF), it will screen 35 films from around the world. The makers of eight of these films will be available for audience interaction.

One of the inaugural screenings will be the Indian premiere of the Japanese short 'Kentaro'. Based on a seven-year-old boy, it explores the future of society amid a declining population. Other critically acclaimed films include 'Yintah' and 'Black Butterflies'. Among the Indian selections are 'Seaspeaker' (about the traditional knowledge of an elderly fisherman), 'Down The Drain' (focusing on people running Bengaluru's sewage systems), and 'Waste and The City' (about the Mavallipura landfill to the north of Bengaluru), among others.

'Mongolia, Valley of the Bears' is one of the 35 films slated for screening.

Panel discussions on land rights, waste, and the future of storytelling will also be held, alongside performances such as 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen' and 'Plastic Asura'.

*For schedule and tickets, visit @alt.eff on Instagram.*

# Brrr? Try these simple hot snacks

With the onset of winter, *Metrolife* asked health experts for a few easy-to-make snacks.

### Roasted sweet potato sticks with herbs

Clinical dietitian Ranjani Raman says the dish aids digestion, boosts immunity, and adds micronutrients such as vitamins A and C and potassium to one's diet.

**Ingredients (serves 1-2)**
- Sweet potato: 150 g
- Oregano, basil, chilli flakes, chilli powder and salt (as per requirement)
- Ghee or cold pressed sunflower, olive or groundnut oil to saute

**Preparation method**
- Slice sweet potato into thin sticks.
- To a little oil, add the spices, salt and herbs. After this, add the sweet potato sticks into this. Toss it well so it all mixes evenly. Let this rest for 5-10 min.
- In a pan, add a little ghee and toss these spiced sweet potato sticks for 5-10 min and cook well. Sprinkle some water if needed.
- Cook it on a low flame using ghee so that the sweet potato cooks from inside and turns crispy. You can also make this in an air fryer.
- Serve hot.

Roasted sweet potato sticks with herbs

### Snack bowl

Consultant-clinical dietitian Edwina Raj shared a healthy recipe, which is rich in iron, magnesium, potassium and Vitamin B3.

**Ingredients (serves 2)**
- Water chestnut: ½ cup
- Sweet potato: ½ cup
- Peanut (roasted and skin peeled): 2 tbsp
- Sesame seeds (roasted): 3 tsp
- Pomegranate: ¼ cup
- Apple: ½ cup
- Lime juice: 1 tsp
- Pepper: ¼ tsp
- Salt as per taste

**Preparation method**
- Wash and peel water chestnut and sweet potato and steam them for 15 min.
- Peel the skin of sweet potato and dice it into small pieces.
- Mix and toss all the other ingredients and serve as a snack.

# Iconic Samrat switches back to restaurant dining

**The iconic brand recently wound up its quick-service outlet on Church Street**

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Samrat, a 48-year-old restaurant popular with politicians, advocates, and film stars, has moved back from self-service to its traditional service-led dining style. The move comes in response to feedback from long-time patrons, says second-generation owner Santosh Shanbhag.

After Samrat shut down at Hotel Chalukya on Race Course Road in 2022, it was relaunched as Chalukya Samrat in a QSR-style format on Museum Road, which it wound up about 15 days ago. It now runs a restaurant in Seshadripuram, with another set to fully open in Jayanagar on January 1, 2026. While both locations include QSR counters, the 25,000 sq ft, 250-cover spaces are primarily designed for full-service dining.

Currently, only a coffee counter is operational at the Jayanagar outlet. It stands in the five-storey building that once housed Maiyas, another landmark south Indian restaurant.

Santosh admits the QSR phase was an experiment and a learning curve. "Our loyal clientele consists mostly of families. They expressed disappointment that we had moved from a full-service to self-service model."

For the restaurant, the shift marks a return to roots in more ways than one. The Seshadripuram outlet is a two-minute drive from its original location, making it easier for long-time regulars to visit. The Jayanagar outlet honours the entrepreneurial beginnings of Santosh's father, M L Shanbhag, in south Bengaluru. "He started Mohan Cafe in Hanumanthanagar, and Geetha Restaurant in Basavanagudi in the 1960s. Seeing the popularity of his masala dosa and idli-vada, the owner of Hotel Chalukya invited him to open a restaurant on its premises in 1977. My father was initially hesitant, as Basaveshwara Circle (known as Chalukya Circle because of the hotel) was sparsely populated, while south Bengaluru was a busy hub," says Santosh.

Samrat soon earned a reputation for its ghee roast masala dosa, rava idli, badam halwa, coffee, and gulab jamun. South Indian mini meals, or 'laghu ahaar', became especially popular with office-goers during lunchtime — Vidhana Soudha and the High Court were a 10-minute walk away. "These light meals filled you enough without making you sleepy," he says.

These classics still remain popular on their menu of nearly 300 offerings.

Chalukya Samrat relaunched with table service in Seshadripuram seven months ago. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

## AC sleeper bus from Bengaluru to Bagalkot

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launched a new AC sleeper bus service from Bengaluru to Bagalkot.

The service will start from Bengaluru at 9 pm daily and reach Bagalkote at 5.15 am the next day, and vice versa.

The 498-km journey will pass through Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Hosapete, Kushtagi, Ilkal and Hungund.

The fare from Bengaluru to Bagalkot has been set at Rs 1,246, to Hosapete at Rs 900, Kushtagi at Rs 1,033, and Hungund at Rs 1,152.

Tickets are available on the official KSRTC website.

# State to expand telescope scheme to all govt schools

### Request for additional funding will be placed before CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is set to expand its flagship Telescope Distribution Scheme, moving beyond the current coverage of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KRIES), to include a wider network of government schools across the state.

Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N S Boseraju announced the proposal on Wednesday, confirming that a request for additional funding would be placed before the chief minister during the next budget meeting.

Speaking at the inauguration of a training programme for KRIES school teachers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Boseraju highlighted the success of the ongoing initiative. The scheme has already equipped 833 residential schools and PU colleges with telescopes at a total cost of Rs 3 crore, a feat he noted was unmatched by any other government department in the country on this scale.

"We must cultivate scientific temper, rational thinking and curiosity among students in an era driven by knowledge and innovation," Boseraju stated.

The expansion plan focuses heavily on effectiveness. The minister emphasised that the goal is not merely to distribute equipment but to ensure integration into classroom learning.

The ongoing phase-wise training sessions are designed to equip KRIES teachers with the skills to properly operate and maintain the telescopes, inspiring astronomical interest among students.

Boseraju also unveiled the 2026 Astronomical Calendar, developed by the Department of Science and Technology. The calendar will serve as a practical guide for teachers, helping them schedule and conduct observation sessions aligned with monthly celestial events.

"Teachers are the architects of future scientists. I urge you to make full use of this training and spark scientific curiosity in your classrooms," the minister stated.

N Manjula, Secretary, IT&BT, Science & Technology Department, and other officials were present at the event.

## SC resolves land disputes among MSR's children

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has resolved a dispute among the children of Karnataka's educationist and land developer, late M S Ramaiah (MSR), in respect of 666 acres of land near Bengaluru airport.

A bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Manmohan gave its imprimatur to the memorandum of family settlement of November 25, 2005, and August 28, 2006, as was worked out between the parties.

The court also found that the appellant, M R Raghuram and the respondents had entered into a partition deed signed between the parties on April 1, 1970, and a similar deed of family settlement-cum-arrangement on January 25, 2017, and had also filed a compromise application under Order XXIII Rule 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The court held that the parties would be bound by the statements and undertakings given in the deed of family settlement-cum-arrangement and compromise application.

The bench disposed of the appeal, along with a clarification that the appellant will neither raise any objection nor file any proceeding or interfere with the rights and obligations of the parties.

Advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Devadatt Kamat, Nikhil Goel and advocate Nishanth Patil for the respondents M R Jayaram and others submitted, they will not challenge or interfere with the ownership of the land as assigned to the appellant under the two settlements/partition deeds.

Senior advocates C Aryama Sundaram, for the appellant and Huzefa Ahmadi, for some of respondents stated that they have no objection if the 2010 suit pertaining to partition of remaining land of father i.e. 104 acres and 04 guntas was disposed of in accordance with the compromise arrived at between the parties as recorded in the compromise application under Order XXIII Rule 3 CPC.

The court decreed the suit in terms of the compromise. The counsel for the remaining respondents submitted that they would have no objection if the underlying suit was remanded to the trial court for adjudication in accordance with law. The bench allowed the plea, leaving all the rights and contentions of the appellant and respondents open for adjudication for the trial court.

Late Ramaiah, the father of the parties, married twice. Ten children were born from these two wedlocks. He owned 666 acres of land in Jodi Akkalenahalli Mallenahalli village, Kasaba hobli, Devanahalli taluk.

Out of the said land, 531 acres and 10 guntas of land was partitioned by the father amongst his ten children during his lifetime on April 1, 1970. Subsequently, another parcel of 30 acres and 26 guntas of land was partitioned amongst the ten siblings by way of a second memorandum of confirmation of oral family settlement on July 25, 1998 after the death of the father on December 25, 1997.

Further in 1997, the appellant had purchased additional 8 acres land in the immediate neighbourhood of 666 acres of land. In a bid to ensure that the parties own contiguous and consolidated portions of land, nine out of the ten siblings (i.e. excluding the appellant) swapped, rearranged and realigned their scattered portions of land, in the years 2005 and 2006. Later, civil suits were filed by the appellant.

ORCHIDS The International School Presents ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

## PV Quiz Championship: Bengaluru zonal round on Dec 15

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bengaluru zonal round of the Prajavani Quiz Championship will be held on December 15.

The venue is RV Auditorium, RV Teachers College, RV Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block.

Only students of classes 7 to 10 can participate.

Any number of teams can participate from one school, but there must be at least two members in a team.

Entry is free for all. Spot registrations begin at 9 am.

For more information, call 7338018541 between noon and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

# Teamwork, wordplay define Day 2

BENGALURU, DHNS

Day 2 of DHiE Expressions 2025, organised by Deccan Herald in Education (DHiE), in association with the Bal Bhavan Society, brought together around 250 students for two language-focused events — Word Winder and Spell Bee.

The morning began with Word Winder, a team-based word-building game played by groups of five.

Sanjay Arbatti, Senior Advisor, Programme/Project Management at HOYT Games, who observed the rounds, described the atmosphere as "electric", noting that children grasped the rules quickly and showed strong coordination.

The Spell Bee, conducted by Arul Mani, Dean, School of Languages at St Joseph's University, tested the precision and composure of individual participants. Six teams were represented by one student each.

Words such as 'hedgehog,' 'largesse', and 'jettison' proved tricky as rounds progressed.

Students said the competition helped them improve vocabulary, observation and focus.

Winners of Spell Bee competition in DHiE Expressions with Arul Mani, Dean, School of Languages at St Joseph's University. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

DHiE Expressions — An inter-school talent competition

Teachers accompanying the students observed that DHiE Expressions offered something that classroom practice alone could not — experiential learning under real-time pressure, participation in competitive but supportive environments, and exposure to peers beyond their own schools.

The Word Winder rounds, in particular, showed how quickly children could adapt to unfamiliar formats, learning from their mistakes and shifting strategy within minutes. Meanwhile, the Spell Bee revealed the depth of vocabulary knowledge students carried and how effectively they could rise to the challenge when their confidence was tested.

The blend of strategy-based gaming and individual spelling performance created a balanced programme that engaged different kinds of learners.

Winners of Word Winder in DHiE Expressions.

**PRIZE WINNERS**

**WORD WINDER (Seniors)**

**First Prize:** East West Academy - Rajajinagar
- Vansh D Jain
- Naman MM
- Bhavyasri Pallem
- Nisha B
- Agam Chirag Shah

**Second Prize:** Ganga International School - Nelagadaranahalli
- Mohammad Wafig
- Rushika
- D M Karthik
- Sneha H
- Hishika P

**Third Prize:** National Public School - Yeshwanthpur
- Vishruth Pradeep
- Laksh G Rao
- Ananya S K
- Maanyatha B Prasad
- Tanmaya P

**SPELL BEE (Juniors)**

**First Prize:** Dhriti Madhukar, National Public School, Yeshwanthpur

**Second Prize:** T Pranav, St Michael's High

**Third Prize:** Samarth Manchali, MES Kishore Kendra Public School

**Fourth Prize:** Atharva Alkod, National Public School - Marathahalli

**SPELL BEE (Seniors)**

**First Prize:** Vaidhan Nishad, National Public School, Yeshwanthpur

**Second Prize:** Vedanth Nayak, Bunt's Sangha RNS Vidyanikethan

**Third Prize:** Arjun Rajesh, Jubilee English High School

**Fourth Prize:** Pranet, Silicon City Academy

## 99 IndiGo flights cancelled

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Flight cancellations by no-frills carrier IndiGo continue to leave behind a trail of angry customers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, as close to a hundred flights by the airline were cancelled on Thursday.

Up until 6 pm, 54 arrivals and 45 departures were cancelled, mostly impacting flights to Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Pune. IndiGo did not issue a statement on Thursday.

Passengers shared that the airport remained overcrowded due to the ongoing operational issues with IndiGo.

## Mukka Proteins bags Rs 475-cr BSWML order

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Mangaluru-based Mukka Proteins Limited has secured a Rs 475-crore contract from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) for treating and disposing of legacy leachate accumulated at the Mittaganahalli and Kannur landfill sites.

The four-year project is considered one of the largest contracts awarded by the state agency.

In a regulatory filing, the company said it received the work order on Wednesday, nearly a month after the proposal was approved by the state cabinet.

Mukka Proteins had reportedly quoted Rs 1.65 per litre to treat approximately 2,878.13 million litres of hazardous leachate.

### Project funding

The project is being funded under the 15th Finance Commission, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, and penalties imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

It was conceptualised after untreated leachate stored in abandoned stone quarries began overflowing and contaminating two waterbodies, triggering protests from villagers and the Kannur panchayat.

Despite the high investment, officials believe the initiative will help reclaim a large stretch of land while addressing major environmental concerns.

## KAS officer accused of diverting Hassan forest posted as special DC

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Two weeks after the state government decided to move the Supreme Court against an assistant commissioner accused of illegally diverting 62 acres of forest in Hassan in 2020, the government has posted the senior officer as the special deputy commissioner.

K A Jagadeesh had issued an order backing a tahsildar's endorsement that 61 acres and 32 gunta in Survey Number 22 of Tyavalli, Shanthigrama Hobli, Hassan taluk, was gomala land. His endorsement came in response to an appeal by one T D Dasegowda that an "inadvertent" entry of the word "forest" in the record of rights (RTC) had taken place and requested the officer to restore the entry of "Sarkari Gomala".

He observed that, except for the RTC, the Forest department had failed to provide any document demonstrating the classification of the land as forest, and allowed the department to pursue the transfer of title before the DC.

Following an appeal by the Forest department, the DC remanded the matter back to the assistant commissioner. In the meantime, the department filed a private complaint accusing Jagadeesh of violating Sections 2 and 3 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, which bars diversion of forest land without necessary clearances from the Centre.

The High Court had quashed the department's case. The court said it was shocking to see the department registering a criminal case against an officer performing a quasi-judicial function as an assistant commissioner.

As the department decided to pursue the case against Jagadeesh at the Supreme Court, the government last month gave approval.

However, on November 27, the department of personnel and administration transferred Jagadeesha as the additional deputy commissioner of Hassan district. Sources in the government said the Revenue Department had no say in the transfer. "The transfer was done by the DPAR," an officer said.

**Sant Gahira Guru Vishwavidyalaya Sarguja, Ambikapur (C.G.)**

No.329/2025 Date: 03-12-2025

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Sealed **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** are invited for New **Website designing and AMC of website.** EOI No. 326/12/2025, Ambikapur dated **03/12/2025**. Last date for submission of EOI **22.12.2025** (05:00 PM). The details are available on website www.sggcg.in

S-46118/3 Sd/- **Registrar**

**STORES E-PROCUREMENT**

**E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: S/29/2025-26, Dtd: 01-12-2025**. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

**Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : ML255145/OT/189/2025-26; Closing/Opening Date: 12-01-2026.**

**Brief Description :** Supply installation & testing of waterless Urinal in Electric Locomotive as per RDSO Spec No RDSO/2023/EL/FRS/0034(Rev.1) or latest and RDSO MS-0507 rev. During installation of waterless urinal and modification required in Loco to be borne by firm itself any wire, tools and any other item required during installation to be born by firm itself. Qty-44 Nos for Dy CMM/Malda Town.

**Note** :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (**www.ireps.gov.in**) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

*Serving Customers With A Smile*

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS RECRUITMENT BOARD**
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION)
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Chayan Bhavan, Pusa campus, New Delhi-110012

F.No.5(1)/2025-R-II Dated: 03-12-2025

**Notice for Advt. No.02/2025**

ASRB invites online applications for filling up of 08 positions of Senior Scientist-cum-Head KVK, to be filled up on permanent basis in different locations at ICAR Research Institutes. Candidates are required to apply online only, using the online application form link available on the website **http://asrb.org.in**. No other mode of submission of applications shall be accepted.

The closing date for submission of online Application Form for the above said positions is **22.01.2026 (05.00 p.m)**

Details / information regarding the posts, pay level, eligibility conditions, fee etc., are available on ASRB's website (**http://asrb.org.in**).

CBC 01307-12-0002-2526 SECRETARY, ASRB

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय भा.वि.सं.
बेंगळूरु–560012
**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE BENGALURU - 560012**
E-mail: principal.kviisc@gmail.com
website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in Ph: 080-23371316

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF TGT (ENGLISH) & TGT( SCIENCE)**

A Walk–in-Interview will be conducted on 08.12.2025 (Monday) from 10.00 a.m to 11.30 a.m. for the post of TGT (English) & TGT (Science) on contractual basis for the current academic session.

**NOTE :**
Details of eligibility, educational qualification, remuneration and Interview Date and Time are put up in the School Website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in. Interested eligible candidates report to Vidyalaya as per schedule given in the website along with duly filled Bio-data form with all original documents / certificates and one set of self-attested photocopies of all documents.

No TA/DA will be paid for attending Interview.

PRINCIPAL

झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची
(झारखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कॉर्पोरेट पहचान सं0 –U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No - 20520108277 **E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com**
उत्पाद भवन, भूतल, नवीन पुलिस केंद्र के समीप, काँके रोड, राँची – 834008
पत्रांक–JSBCL/ स्था0–05 / 2012– 2461 दिनांक–04.12.2025

–शुद्धि पत्र–

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित पत्रांक– JSBCL/स्था0–05 / 2012–2458, दिनांक–03.12.2025, जिसका Advt. P.R. No-367644 दिनांक–03.12.2025 है, के आलोक में E-Tender for Empanelment of Security Guard & MTS के निविदा की अवधि विस्तारण से संबंधित तिथि की स्पष्टता निम्नवत् है:–

| S.N. | Particulars | Previous | | Extended | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Date | Time | Date | Time |
| 01 | Last Date/closing date for submission of E-Tender | 08-12-2025 | 04:00 P.M. | 16-12-2025 | 04:00 P.M. |
| 02 | Last date for Submission of Document (Hard Copy) in the JSBCL Office | 09-12-2025 | 05:00 P.M. | 17-12-2025 | 05:00 P.M. |
| 03 | Online opening of Technical Bid. | 10-12-2025 | 04:00 P.M. | 18-12-2025 | 04:00 P.M. |

ह0/–
महाप्रबंधक (संचालन) झा0रा0बि0कॉ0लि0, राँची।

PR 367750 Excise(25-26)D

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
E-Tender Notice No. RE-SBC-E-259-TWS-ASK
Dated : 19.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Construction of Tower Wagon Shed with repair facility, Siding, approach road, water and sewage arrangements at Arsikere junction station and left over/ miscellaneous works in CEE/ Project/SWR jurisdiction of South Western Railway | Rs. 5,40,06,155.82 |

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-12-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Railway Electrification
PUB/710/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Bengaluru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Tender No. : SDSTE-ETN-CCTV-YARD-STN, Dated 03.12.2025.** Open e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway station, Howrah-711101 in Single Packet System for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** 1. Development of wharf & drainage system at Dankuni Goods & provision of CCTV coverage & electrical facilities for Fog Canon, AAQ, Noise Monitoring. 2. Proposal for installation of CCTV at Barddhaman Yard. 3. Proposal for installation of CCTV at Howrah-Bamangachhi Yard. 4. Proposal for installation of additional CCTV at Barddhaman Station. 5. Proposal for Installation of CCTV at vulnerable LC gate of Howrah division. 6. Rolling in huts with CCTV at Howrah, Barddhaman, Rampurhat & Azimganj. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 8,39,00,720.19. **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** ₹ 5,69,500/-. **Tender Document Cost :** 0.00. **Bidding Start Date:** 12.12.2025. **Period of Completion:** 12 Months. **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 26.12.2025, 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Uploading Tender :** 03.12.2025, 12.04 hrs.

(HWH-430/2025-26)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

**Tender Notice No.: (i) 114-ELC-G-KGP-25-26-34, (ii) 114-ELC-G-KGP-25-26-38, Dt-03.12.2025.** For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. DEE/G/South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tenders for the following works before **12.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items. **Sl.No.-**(i). **Description of work:** Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 04 nos. Escalators (Jhargram-JGM-02 nos. and Ghatsila-GTS-2 nos.) under ABSS scheme along with 10 years Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,10,16,918.56. **Bid Security/E.M.D.:** ₹ 3,55,100. **Sl.No.-**(ii). **Description of work:** Kharagpur: Provision of Smart Energy Meter at Kharagpur Railway Settlement area under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEE(G)/Kharagpur as Phase-1. **Tender Value:** ₹ 22,04,073.60. **Bid Security/E.M.D.:** ₹ 44,100. **Date of Opening:** 24.12.2025 [for Sl.No. (i) & (ii)]. **Cost of tender document:** Nil [for Sl.No. (i) & (ii)]. **Completion Period:** 12 months for Srl.No. (i) and 06 months for Srl.No. (ii) from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. **Date of submission:** Up to 12.00 hrs. of 24.12.2025 [for Sl.No. (i) & (ii)]. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these works will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-914)**

**Department of Mines & Geology**
**Directorate of Geology,**
**Government of Jharkhand**
**Notice Inviting Quotations (NIQ)**
**Reference No. 07/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025**

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Information |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of work | Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of a Hydraulic Core Splitter. |
| 2. | Contact Person and Address for Communication | Director, Geology; Directorate of Geology, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand; Engineers' Hostel No -2, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004; E-mail ID: dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in |
| 3. | Cost of NIQ | NIL |
| 4. | Validity of the Rate/P rice Offered by the Bidders | 90 days |
| 5. | Tender publication date | 04.12.2025 |
| 6. | Last date of submission of Bids/NIQ | 22.12.2025 till 01:00 PM |
| 7. | Bid/NIQ opening date | 22.12.2025 up to 03:30 PM. |
| 8. | Period of issue of NIQ | 04.12.2025 to 22.12.2025 |
| 9. | Mode of Bid submission | The bid must be submitted through the Speed post/Registered post in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning the NIQ reference number and the subject matter on the sealed envelope. |
| 10. | Address of Bid submission | Directorate of Geology, Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand, PIN-834004 |
| 11. | Helpline No. | 8987424878 |

Sd/-
Director, Geology Directorate of Geology,
Department of Mines & Geology,
Government of Jharkhand

PR 367745 Mines and Geology(25-26)D

# BIFFes from Jan 29 to Feb 6

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be held from January 29 to February 6, 2026.

Feature fiction films produced between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, in Kannada or any dialect of Karnataka, with a minimum duration of 70 minutes are eligible to apply for screening at the festival.

In the Chitrabharati-Indian Cinema Competition section, feature fiction films produced between January 1 and December 31, 2025, in any Indian language, including English and Indian dialects, with a minimum duration of 70 minutes are eligible to apply.

In the third section of the Asian Cinema Competition, feature fiction films produced between January 1 and December 31, 2025, in any Asian country, with a minimum duration of 70 minutes, are eligible to apply.

For the Chitrabharathi-Indian Cinema and Kannada Cinema Competition and for Indian films applying for the Asian Cinema Competition, the date of issue of the certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will be considered as the date for the purpose of ascertaining the date of film production.

### Fee

A fee of Rs 3,000 per film entry through online transaction for Karnataka and Indian films applying in the Indian, Kannada and Asian cinema competition sections is applicable.

The online film submission for the 17th BIFFes competition sections begins on December 6 and the last date for film submission is December 31, 2025.

The festival is organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations and Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy.

# RCU professor sent on compulsory retirement over sex abuse charges

## Complainant-student will be issued convocation certificate if she pays fee: V-C

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Syndicate of Rani Channamma University-Belagavi (RCUB), in its special meeting convened on Thursday, decided to send History professor and research guide Prof K L N Murthy, accused of sexual harassment by a research student, on compulsory retirement, said Vice-Chancellor Prof C M Thyagaraja.

Speaking to reporters here, the RCUB vice-chancellor said, "Following the media reports that a research student had attempted suicide after she was denied a certificate during the convocation held last month, a special Syndicate meeting was convened."

"The research student had lodged a sexual harassment case against the guide in question. He was placed on suspension following the charges. Since the investigation into the matter was in progress, the university decided against giving a completion certificate to the student during the convocation. To send a message of zero tolerance against sexual harassment, the Syndicate has decided to send Prof Murthy on compulsory retirement," the V-C told reporters.

The student will be issued the convocation certificate if she pays the requisite fee, he said.

On the student's allegation that she was not issued the certificate during the convocation as she belonged to a Dalit community, the vice-chancellor said, "We have not discriminated against any individual over their caste, creed or religion. We have given a research fellowship of Rs 3.76 lakh to the student and the PhD notification has not been withdrawn. She is working as a principal in a college. Many students belonging to Dalit communities were issued a convocation certificate."

Registrar Santosh Kamagouda said that, inquiry into the allegations made by a research scholar was made as per UGC norms and POSH Act. "As inquiry had indicted Murthy, he was placed under suspension. In the meantime complaint against him was withdrawn. We, however, followed due procedures."

# 'Will declare Sept 13 as Women Employees Day'

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday assured women employees working in various state government departments that September 13 will be officially declared Women Employees Day in Karnataka.

However, he rejected the Karnataka State Government Women Employees' Association's request to declare it a government holiday, stating that the state already has "enough holidays". Speaking at an event organised by the Association, Siddaramaiah said, "We will announce September 13 as Women Employees Day. It is difficult to say no when women put forward some requests, but it is impossible to consider a holiday as we already have enough government holidays."

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, addressing the gathering, suggested that the Association organise a state-level women's convention next year at Palace Grounds and assured the government's financial support. He also stressed that there should be only one women's employees' association, and it should not be formed on caste lines.

Regarding the Association's request for land to build an office, Siddaramaiah directed Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar to explore the availability of space at Bal Bhavan.

## NAVY DAY FIREWORKS

**Fireworks light up the sky at the Kadamba Naval Base on the occasion of the Indian Navy Day in Karwar on Thursday. Indian Navy Day is observed every year on December 4 to celebrate the achievements, role, and strength of the Indian Navy, and to honour the valour and sacrifice of naval personnel.** DH PHOTO

# Now, govt extends menstrual leaves to its employees

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka government has extended its policy granting one menstrual leave per month to working women in the private sector to government employees too. In its order dated December 02, the government has noted that women employees aged 18-52 are eligible to avail the leaves. As per the order, women employees need not provide any medical certificate to avail of these leaves and it has to be updated in a register.

On October 09, the State Cabinet approved the menstrual leave policy, granting one menstrual leave per month (12 per year) to all menstruating working women.

Following this, an order was passed on November 11, wherein the government had mandated establishments coming under Factories Act, 1948, Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, Plantation Workers Act, 1951, Beedi Cigar Workers (condition of employment) Act, 1966 and Motor Vehicle Workers Act, 1961 to provide menstrual leaves to women employees aged 18-52.

Tuesday's order comes after the Bangalore Hotels' Association in Karnataka High Court, challenging the government's initial menstrual leave notification. The policy is based on a report by an 18-member committee headed by Dr Sapna S of Christ (deemed-to-be) University, which had recommended 6 menstrual leaves per year, but this was later changed to 12 days by the Labour Department.

# KSCA polls: Division bench bins plea against Shanth Kumar

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A division bench of the Karnataka High Court has dismissed the appeal challenging the single-bench order declaring K N Shanth Kumar as a valid candidate to contest the elections to the post of president of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha rejected the appeal filed by Kalpana Venkatachar, who had withdrawn her candidature for the KSCA president. The election is scheduled for December 7.

On November 29, the single bench had allowed Kumar's petition challenging the November 24 order passed by the electoral officer rejecting his nomination on the ground of 'pending arrears'.

# Inter-collegiate fest at United Composite PU College

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** United Composite PU College will conduct VIBRANCE 4.0, an inter-collegiate fest, on December 6.

VIBRANCE 4.0 is the college's annual signature event with the theme 'High on Life', a celebration of pure energy, creativity and positivity, reminding everyone to embrace life to the fullest and stay high on life, not on drugs, a news release said.

In the run-up to the fest, a colourful 25-metre roll-down was completed on November 20, featuring handprints from PU students across the entire cloth, making the official start of 'Fest Week'.

### On-stage events

The spotlight nowshifts to the on-stage events.

From the high-energy Dazzling Divas (group dance) and glamorous Runway Revolution (fashion show) to the mesmerising Rhythm Reign (solo dance) and adrenaline-pumping Turn Down Throwdown (battle of bands), these marquee performances promise unforgettable moments and pure excitement for the entire campus, the release added.

### Off-stage events

Off-stage, students will showcase their skills and creativity in Fun Flashes, Digital Delight, Drip and Doodle, and many more exciting competitions.

As the evening sets in, the fest escalates into Concert Night + DJ Night, featuring a live performance by Thamarassery Churam, followed by the pulsating mixes of Benji Beats, the release added.

# 'Offensive remarks on Suresh': Case against HDK stayed

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The High Court on Thursday stayed further proceedings against Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy in an election offence case registered during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav passed this interim order and posted the matter to the third week of January for further consideration.

The FIR was registered on April 19, 2024, alleging that the former chief minister had made certain disparaging remarks against former Bangalore Rural MP D K Suresh, while campaigning for the BJP-JD(S) candidate at Gubbi in Tumakuru district.

The FIR was based on a report published in a newspaper about the statement made by Kumaraswamy on April 16.

"The impugned order further demonstrates that cognizance has been taken primarily based on a newspaper report dated April 14, 2024, which the magistrate expressly acknowledges to be based on a wrong impression. Reliance on a newspaper report - especially one admitted being erroneous - to infer criminal liability is wholly impermissible in law," the petition said.

# Darshan to get TV in jail cell

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A Bengaluru court on Thursday directed prison authorities to allow the provision of a television for Kannada actor Darshan and a few others lodged at the Parappana Agrahara prison in the city.

"In view of Jail Manual and report submitted by the learned member secretary, DLSA, Bengaluru Urban, the Chief Superintendent of Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru, is hereby directed to install the TV in the cell wherein accused No 2, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 14 were kept or allow them to watch TV where TV is installed. Office is directed to issue intimation to the Jail Authority accordingly," the court stated.

Besides Darshan, who is accused number 2 in the Renukaswamy murder case, Jagadish (accused 6), Anu Kumar (accused 7), Nagaraj (accused 11), Lakshman (accused 12) and Pradosh (accused 14), have been allowed the TV provision.

The court has also summoned Renukaswamy's parents—who are both witnesses in the case — at the next hearing on December 17.

Darshan, along with others, is accused of murdering Renukaswamy in June 2024, allegedly over the latter's obscene social media messages to the actor's female friend, Pavithra Gowda.


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| 02 | Supervisor – Maintenance | **Qualification:** AME / B.Tech / B.sc with 7 to 9 years of experience in heavy aircraft MRO<br>• Supervise and coordinate heavy aircraft maintenance activities, ensuring compliance with OEM and regulatory standards.<br>• Provide technical guidance, training, and support for troubleshooting and quality control.<br>• Must have worked as a Master Technician and above roles. |
| 03 | Structural Repair Lead – MRO | **Qualification:** AME / B Tech / B.sc 11 - 14 years of experience in heavy aircraft MRO<br>• Establish structural repair facilities and tooling per OEM and regulatory standards<br>• Lead and approve complex sheet metal and composite repairs on heavy aircraft<br>• Develop SOPs, ensure compliance with DGCA/EASA/FAA and maintain audit-ready documentation.<br>• Must have performed structural repairs on heavy transport Aircraft. |
| 04 | Maintenance Planning Engineer | **Qualification:** B Tech / Diploma with 3 - 5 years of experience in MRO / Airline CAMO planning<br>• Extract maintenance forecasts from MPD, TCTO, and OEM documentation<br>• Prepare task cards and integrate them into maintenance work packages<br>• Analyse TAT & MTTR and propose optimization strategies<br>• Coordinate with technical services and ensure pre-load readiness as per plans |

Date of Interview & Timing: 06-12-2025 & 09.30 AM to 04.30 PM | Documents to Carry: CV
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Date : 03/12/2025

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RANJUSHA KOUSTUB D/o. Rajan Keyalathe, R/a Dreamscape Towers, G-03, 5th Main, OMBR Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my Minor Son's Name from RIYANSH VINAYAK NAIR to RIYANSH NAIR (DOB: 07.04.2016) vide affidavit dated: 4.12.2025 before Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RANJUSHA VINAYAK D/o. Rajan Keyalathe, R/a Dreamscape Towers, G-03, 5th Main, OMBR Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my Name to RANJUSHA KOUSTUB vide affidavit dated: 4.12.2025 before Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, S VINOD CHARLES, residing at # 96/2, Annamma Building, 4th Cross, 8th Main, Hongasandra Village, Begur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to S VINODH CHARLES vide affidavit dtd: 03-12-2025 before notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
Change of Name
I, MANISHA REDDY, residing at Bengaluru-97 have changed my name as MANISHA REDDY BANGALORE SRINIVAS, vide affidavit dated 4/12/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, SATHYAVELU R/a#18, 13th Cross KashiNagara Yelachenahalli J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have`changed my minor Daughter's Name from SUVETHA to INDHU. S. (DOB:06.1.2008) as per Court Order of 2nd`Additional District Munsif, Puducherry Dated:23.9.2025 vide`affidavit dated:4.12.2025 before`Notary B.Gopalakrishna Bangalore.


SOIL TO SARTORIAL

# Mysuru mesmerises in myriad ways, silk museum up next

**SHILPA P**
MYSURU, DHNS

The heritage city of Mysuru will soon have another feather in its crown - India's first 'comprehensive silk museum', to showcase history and evolution of silk production technologies, varieties of silk, its products, heritage, tradition and culture.

The Central Silk Board (CSB) is planning to establish the museum on about three acres of land on the 125-acre CSRTI (Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute) campus, at a cost of about Rs 20 crore.

The CSB also plans to establish a 'centre of excellence' for training in advanced silk technologies; a seri-tourism zone, where tourists to Mysuru can see modules/different stages of manufacture - 'soil to silk' - from cultivation of mulberry leaves to rearing of silkworms, reeling of cocoons and silk production.

N Naresh Babu, joint secretary (technical), CSB, told *DH* that the proposal was approved in principle by union ministry of textiles.

"The museum is in the process of floating a tender, to engage an agency to prepare the detailed project report (DPR). The DPR will be sent to the union ministry of culture for partial funding, up to Rs 5 crore, under 'silk scheme'. The rest of the funds will be procured from various schemes of the textile ministry. Once funds are allotted, the museum is likely to be a reality in two years," he said.

**The KSIC's silk weaving factory in Mysuru.** DH PHOTO

Babu said, "Countries like China and Vietnam have such silk museums. Our scientists have visited the one in Vietnam. There are small-scale silk museums in different states. But this one will be comprehensive". He said the facility would showcase a variety of silks like mulberry tussar, muga and eri, their cultivation process, rearing of silkworms, weaving & its products.

"It will showcase mulberry silk cultivated in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and their products like Mysore Silk, Kanjeevaram, Banarasi, Baluchari, Gadwal; Muga silk of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya; Eri silk of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Gujarat and Odisha. It will showcase varieties of Tussar silk like Tropical Tussar, where silkworms grow over Terminalia Arjuna species of trees in forests of Jharkhand, MP, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal; Temperate Tussar or Oak Tussar where silkworms grow on Oak trees in states like Manipur, Uttarkhand and Himachal Pradesh. There will also be products of Tussar like Kosa and Bagalpuri silk sarees," Babu said.

"Raw silk production in India has increased by 4-5% from 38,948 metric tonnes (MT) in 2023-24 to 41,121 MT in 2024-25. Earlier, cultivation of mulberry was limited to Kolar and Chikkaballapur. Now, its production has expanded to North Karnataka districts like Belagavi and Haveri. Yet, we are importing 1,500-2,000 MT of raw silk per year from Vietnam. In order to increase silk production, we are supporting sericulture through initiatives like Silk Samagra - from mulberry plantation level to raising silkworms - by funding rearing houses, equipment and reeling machines".

The officer said Mysuru was also known as silk city, since its production began here in the 18th century. "So, we chose this city to establish the museum," Babu said.

## Hate speech to attract 7-yr jail, Rs 50k fine

Hate speech, from Page 1

Liable persons associated with such organisations will have to prove that the offence was committed without their knowledge or that they did due diligence to prevent it.

Home Minister G Parameshwara clarified that the Bill does not target the Opposition BJP. "We [Congress] won't be in power permanently. Won't governments change? The law will apply irrespective of who is in power. The Bill does not mention BJP, Congress or JD(S)," he said.

The proposed law will not apply to books, pamphlets, papers, writings, drawings and paintings if they deal with science, literature, art, learning or are used for "bona fide heritage or religious purposes".

### Takedown powers

An officer designated by the government will have powers to direct "service providers, intermediaries, persons or entities to block or remove hate crime material". This will include electronic media, the Bill says.

The Bill also empowers district magistrates and deputy police superintendents to take "preventive action" if they believe that a person or a group within their jurisdiction will commit a hate crime.

Asked if ideological positions may be construed as hate speech, Law Minister H K Patil said: "The difference between hate speech and ideological opinion need not be spelt out."

# Cabinet clears law against 'evil' social boycotts

## Bill to be tabled at winter session in Belagavi

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The Cabinet approved on Thursday a new law that prohibits and criminalises social boycott of persons, especially by self-appointed caste panchayats, with a jail term of up to three years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

The Karnataka Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, piloted by Law, Justice & Human Rights Minister H K Patil, is likely to come up in the winter session of the legislature starting next week in Belagavi.

The Bill lists 19 forms of social boycott, which includes refusal to do business, denying opportunities, obstruction from participation in events or blocking access to facilities and cutting-off of ties.

"Generally, social boycotts are observed in cases of inter-caste marriages," Patil's department said in a note.

Maharashtra has enacted a similar law to protect people from social boycott. "It has been observed that unconstitutional practices such as boycotts, imposition of various punishments by extrajudicial bodies such as caste or community panchayats, are still in practice in various communities in the state," the note said.

"This has adverse effects on the social life of the community and has given rise to ill-feelings and disharmony in society. It is, therefore, necessary to eradicate these evil and unconstitutional practices from society," it said, adding that existing laws were "inadequate".

Any assembly or congregation of persons to discuss imposing a social boycott will be "unlawful" and attracts a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh. Aiding or abetting social boycotts will result in up to three years' jail and Rs 1 lakh in fine.

Under the proposed law, the government will appoint a social boycott prohibition officer to detect offences.

## Upalokayukta's '63% graft' claim: BJP seeks CBI probe

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following Upalokaykta Justice B Veerappa's allegation of "63% commission" in Karnataka, the state BJP on Thursday urged the ruling Congress to hand over the case to CBI.

Addressing a press conference here, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, said: "Three months before the election, you pasted posters of Pay CM (when the Basavaraj Bommai-led government was in power) on all roads for 40% (commission charges). Now it's 63%, Siddaramaiah and his Cabinet should be ashamed. The Upalokayukta has exposed corruption. This must be handed over to the CBI. This corruption must become known to the people."

Speaking in a programme on Wednesday, Justice Veerappa had claimed that corruption in Kerala was 10%, but it's 63% in Karnataka, adding that he was able to see it with his own eyes after becoming Upalokayukta.

"Karnataka has become an ATM (for Congress) for any state election. Whoever gives money to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi will be in power

Leader of the Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy asked CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar on whether they would deny these claims.

### CM hits back at BJP

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah shot back at the BJP, stating that Upa Lokayukta's claims of "63%" corruption were based on his report in November 2019, when BJP's BS Yediyurappa was the CM. "But R Ashoka, without understanding the Upa Lokayukta's statement properly, has ended up tying the BJP's own bells of sins onto our heads and has effectively shot himself in the foot." The chief minister termed it Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka's "foolishness" to "twist" Veerappa's statement.

## Putin begins high-profile...

Putin, from Page 1

The tête-à-tête between the two leaders during the ride from the airport and during the dinner set the stage for the formal talks during the annual summit on Friday, when the two sides would sign an agreement to streamline the legal mobility of skilled and semi-skilled people from India to Russia. The agreements to boost trade and economic relations, as well as cooperation in healthcare and media, would be inked too.

They will also discuss Russia's proposal for the sale of SU-57E fighter jets and additional S-400 missiles to India, in addition to reviewing the bilateral defence cooperation. The India-Russia cooperation in space technology and nuclear energy will also be on the agenda.

Putin is likely to share with Modi his views on the 28-point peace plan Trump has put forward to halt the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

India has been conveying to Russia its concerns over the trade deficit widening from $6.6 billion to $58.9 billion, along with a five-fold rise in bilateral trade in goods from $13 billion in 2021 to $68 billion in 2024-25, well on course to reach $100 billion by 2030 – a target set by Modi and Putin earlier, despite the sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Moscow.

## Over 400 IndiGo flights cancelled...

Flights, from Page 1

Bengaluru airport alone saw 99 cancellations (54 arrivals, 45 departures) till 6pm.

Known for its punctuality, IndiGo's sharp drop in On Time Performance (OTP) from 35% on Tuesday, when the trouble started, to 19.7% on Wednesday gave a picture of the crisis.

The airline admitted that the disruptions since Tuesday have arisen "primarily from misjudgment and planning gaps" in implementing Phase 2 of the FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) norms.

IndiGo accepted that the actual crew requirement for new norms exceeded their anticipation, a DGCA statement said.

The airline told DGCA it was facing "significant transitional challenges" in roster planning and crew availability under Phase-2 FDTL norms.

"These issues, combined with winter operational constraints, contributed to the sharp spike in cancellations and delays," the DGCA statement quoted the airline as saying. "More cancellations will continue for 2–3 days as part of schedule stabilisation efforts. From Dec 8, airline will reduce flight operations to minimise disruption."

Minister Naidu expressed "displeasure" regarding the manner in which the situation has been handled by the airline.

## K'taka foreign tourist numbers plateau amid safety concerns...

Tourism, from Page 1

September saw 22,234 foreign tourists, while the corresponding figure in 2024 was 27,609.

As Karnataka gets a good chunk of its foreign tourists in the latter half of the year, mostly between October and December, officials in the tourism department believe there's still hope for the numbers to rise.

However, the state has consistently received fewer than 5 lakh foreign tourists since the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Karnataka hosted 4.85 lakh tourists from abroad in 2024 and 4.09 lakh in 2023. Pre-pandemic, in 2019, the state had welcomed approximately 6 lakh foreign tourists, but just 0.56% of the national inflow in that year.

### Safety concerns

The downward trend in foreign visitors isn't limited to Karnataka, said Akram Pasha, director, Department of Tourism. "Multiple countries have issued advisories stating that it is unsafe, which has deterred inbound tourists from visiting the country. This has led to lots of negative publicity. We're working to push things in a more positive direction," he told *DH*.

The two rape cases, where tourists were attacked in Hampi and Koppal, in March tainted the image of the state, believe industry insiders. While tourists flock in every year to witness the state's legendary Dasara celebrations, the numbers were extremely low this year, they said.

"This year, we saw about 20 foreign tourists and almost each one had the same concern about how safe Karnataka is. There is a sense of mistrust, so we have to assure them that we work with only trusted individuals and that overall, Karnataka is a safe state," said Karthik Marathe, who runs Nesara Tours. This year, his company saw tourists majorly from the Czech Republic, Germany and Sweden.

In 2025, up until October, only three months saw over 50,000 foreign tourists — January, February and March. The highest number of foreign tourists was in February, at 64,899, and the lowest in June, at 17,152.

### Poor marketing

Another reason for the plateauing number of foreign tourists is the lack of sustainable marketing both at the state and national levels, said Rohit Hangal, director, Sphere Travelmedia and Exhibitions.

"Both governments of India and Karnataka have reduced the budget for tourism marketing. If they want people to come in, they have to go out and spend. Inbound tourism is a brutally competitive business. Karnataka offers both heritage and wildlife. They need to plan a focused marketing campaign, revolving around this. And it needs to be a long-term plan, sustainable for at least five years," he elaborated, adding that there is also a need for expanding the hospitality sector.

"Unesco announced the Hoysala temples (in Halebidu, Belur and Somanathapura) as World Heritage Sites. But we have no five-star hotels anywhere near them. This needs to change," he added. Industry insiders also pointed to the weakening of economies this year in both the US and Europe as plausible reasons for the lack of inbound tourism.

Despite the low interest of inbound tourism in Karnataka, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport continues to maintain a modest but stable share of foreign tourist arrivals (FTA). In 2025, the airport saw 6.9 lakh FTAs, about 8.4% of the national share.

K. T. THOMAS

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**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– 5054 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-4 ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 02.12.2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿ: 19.12.2025 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿ: 18.12.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 20.12.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

**ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.**01 **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸೋಸಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಚಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಸೋಸಲೆ, ವ್ಯಾಸರಾಜಪುರ, ಉಕ್ಕಲಗೆರೆ, ಚಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಂತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಅಂಕನಹಳ್ಳಿವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಕುಂತನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಅತ್ತಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೀಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೊಡಗಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಯಾಚೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕಾಡುಕೊತ್ತನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೆಣಸಿಕ್ಯಾತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ& ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT20146). **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 270.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 227.20 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 3,41,000.00 **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ:** 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

**ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.**2. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಿರಿಯೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಮಡವಾಡಿವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಹಿರಿಯೂರು, ಮಾದಾಪುರ, ಅಕ್ಕೂರು, ವಡೆಯಾಂಡಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಟಿ.ಬೆಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕುರುಬಾಳಹುಂಡಿ, ಬಿ.ಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕಾಳಬಸವನಹುಂಡಿ, ಕಾಳಿಹುಂಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಡವಾಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ & ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT20148) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 210.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 176.56 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,65,000.00 **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ:** 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

**ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.**3. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಲಿಯೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಮಾವಿನಹಳ್ಳಿವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಕಲಿಯೂರು, ಬೆಟ್ಟದಹೊಸೂರು, ಮಂಗಿಪಚ್ಚನಹುಂಡಿ, ತಡಿಮಾಲಂಗಿ, ತೊಟ್ಟವಾಡಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡನಹುಂಡಿ, ಮಾವಿನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕುರುಬೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ವಾಟಾಳುವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಕುರುಬೂರು, ಮೂಗೂರು, ಹ್ಯಾಕನೂರು ಮತ್ತು ವಾಟಾಳು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ & ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT20147) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 225.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 189.30 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,84,000.00 **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ:** 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

**ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.**4. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮುಸುವಿನಕೊಪ್ಪಲು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಬೋಳೇಗೌಡನ ಹುಂಡಿವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಬರುವ ಮುಸುವಿನಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಎಂ.ಕೆಬ್ಬೆಹುಂಡಿ, ಕೈಯಂಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಪುರ, ದೊಡ್ಡೇಬಾಗಿಲುಮೋಳೆ, ಆಚಾರಯ್ಯನಹುಂಡಿ, ನರೀಪುರ, ದೊಡ್ಡೇಬಾಗಿಲು, ನೆರಗ್ಯಾನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೋಣಗಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೊಳತ್ತೂರು, ಸೀಗೋಡಿಪುರ, ಕೆಂಪನಪುರ & ಬೋಳೇಗೌಡನಹುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ & ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT20145) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 295.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 248.35 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 3,73,000.00 **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ:** 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (e-procurement portal) ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುವೆಂಪುನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು (ಫೋನ್ ನಂ.0821–2560853) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಿ.ಇಂ. 8971599285

DIPR/DDMYS/1314/KSMCA/738/2025-26

**ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು**



**BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020
No. BDA/EE/ID/TEN/117/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**

**(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Tender is invited for Providing vehicles for BDA Demolition Squad on outsourced basis for the period of one year (12 months). (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/SE0070).

**Tender Process Schedule: (1)** Last date and time for tender queries: **06.12.2025, 16.30 hrs. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **13.12.2025, 16.30 hrs. (3)** Date and time of opening Technical bid: **15.12.2025, 16.30 hrs. (4)** Date and time of opening Financial bid: **18.12.2025, 16.30 hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Infrastructure Division of BDA during office hours.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru**



**BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BELAGAVI.**
Phone / Fax : 0831-2470342, 2470257, E-mail : belagavibuda@gmail.com
No. : B.U.D.A./P.W.D./E-TENDER/2025-26/2740 Date : 04-12-2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

**(E-procurement Portal)**

**Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, (BUDA) Belagavi** invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the Works taken under **Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants in Standard Tender Document through E-Procurement - 02 Portal.**

**The details of the Time Table of Tenders are as Follows.**

**1) Name of Work : Improvements of Roads Drains & Electrification Works from Plot No. 737 to Ganesh Park in Scheme No. 40 Kuvempu Nagar Belagavi North Constituency, Indent No. : BGMUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT88/ CALL-3, Estimated Amount of Work (in Lakhs) : 94.85, Tender Amount of Work (in Lakhs) : 80.37, EMD Amount in Rupees : 1,89,700/-, Work Execution Period : 06 Months.**

**Tender Form Fee as per E-Procurement Portal**

**1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Quarries : 09-12-2025 upto 4.30 p.m., 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 11-12-2025 upto 4.30 p.m., 3) Opening of Technical Bid on : 12-12-2025 at 5.00 p.m., 4) Opening Date of Financial Bid will be intimated in E-Procurement Portal, 5) Below Mentioned Officers of Authority have all the rights to Accept or Reject the Tender without giving any reason, 6) GST Amount will be paid to the Tendered Amount Separately.**

**For further details visit online Website : kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagavi.**

**Sd/- Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagavi.**

DIPR/Belagavi/1436/Manipal/2025-26



**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru.
**No:EE/SJN/E-Proc/04/2025-26 Date: 04-12-2025**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)**

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation Zone 2 Shivajinagara Division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/ firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through e-Procurement system by the Executive Engineer Shivaji Nagara Division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation - Zone 2

| Sl No. | Name of the works |
|---|---|
| 1. | Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of Resurfacing to selected Arterial, Sub arterial and other Major roads in Vasanthanagara sub division pertaining to Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency (Package- 01) for the year 2025-26 (Comprising of 10 works of Govt anexure-1 Sl. No: 51, 52, 58, 60, 68, 70, 73, 74, 75 & 81)". **Cost of Work : ₹14.62 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹36,550.00** |
| 2. | Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of *Resurfacing to selected Arterial, Sub arterial and other Major roads in Vasanthanagara sub division pertaining to Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency (Package-02) for the year 2025-26 (Comprising of 12 works of Govt anexure-1 Sl. No: 53, 56, 57, 59, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 77, 78 & 79) **Cost of Work : ₹13.62 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹34,050.00** |
| 3. | Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of "Resurfacing to selected Arterial, Sub arterial and other Major roads in Vasanthanagara sub division pertaining to Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency (Package-03) for the year 2025-26 (Comprising of 09 works of Govt anexure-1 Sl. No: 54, 55, 61, 62, 67, 69, 72, 76 & 80) **Cost of Work : ₹13.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹32,500.00** |
| 4. | Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the work of "Resurfacing to selected Arterial, Sub arterial and other Major roads in Shivajinagara sub division pertaining to Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency (Package-04) for the year 2025-26 (Comprising of 30 works of Govt anexure-1 Sl. No: 82 to 111) **Cost of Work : ₹14.25 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹35,625.00** |

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tenders document may be downloaded through KPP portal from **08-12-2025** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **15-12-2025** at **11:00** am. (3) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders is **18-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening Technical Bid on **19-12-2025** upto **4:30** pm.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division**

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# A textbook case of governance by impulse

The government's decision to reverse the order on pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all phones shows the pitfalls of arbitrary and ill-considered decision-making on matters of vital importance to people. The decision faced widespread criticism from the first day, and the government went through a series of flip-flops and cumulative climbdowns ending in its reversal. It first softened its position with the statement that those did not want the app could delete it. Then it said it could modify the decision based on public opinion. Within hours, it withdrew the order. It is clear that the all-round criticism, particularly the opposition from technology companies such as Apple and Google, forced the government to retract. The incident should serve as a lesson for the government, and even after withdrawal, it leaves some questions to be answered.

The government claimed that the app would help counter cyber fraud, give better protection to phone users, and strengthen digital trust. But it violated some basic principles of cyber conduct and fundamental rights of citizens. The government had no right to implant the app in phones without the user's consent. Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said, after the decision became controversial, that the app was optional and those who did not want it could delete it. But the freedom to delete the app is not the same as the right not to have it on the phone without consent. The implant of the app would certainly have been a violation of the right to privacy, which is a fundamental right. It would also have given the government a backdoor entry into the citizen's private world, and a means of surveillance over people. It amounted to the government posting a policeman or installing a camera in every home to prevent theft and robbery. It may be noted that the government had faced credible allegations of illegal surveillance of politicians and others using the Pegasus software. The implant of the app would also have helped the government to do political propaganda.

**Sanchar Saathi reversal shows how not to govern digital India**

The question remains why the government took the decision when there were much less objectionable methods to achieve the claimed objectives. The government acted in a hurry and arbitrarily on a matter on which it should have held wide consultations with all stakeholders, including people's representatives, political parties, and technology companies, because the matter concerned the rights and lives of people. Considering the government's record on such matters, it is likely that it took the decision to backtrack more because of the refusal of technology companies to comply with it than because of the backlash from others. Hopefully it will learn the right lessons from the controversy.

# One city, multiple plans, utter chaos

Even as Bengaluru witnesses unprecedented urbanisation, it continues to operate with a planning framework conceived long before this growth unfolded. The last approved planning document is the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015, which itself was an update of the RMP-2005. In effect, Bengaluru has been navigating 21st-century challenges with a map drawn up in the early 2000s. The proposed RMP-2031 was withdrawn due to technical flaws and public opposition, and the subsequent RMP-2041 has failed to take off. For a metropolis of this scale, the absence of an up-to-date master plan is not just a bureaucratic lapse — it is a governance failure. Now, the government has chosen a new path, a fragmented one at that. The preparation of the next Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) has been split between the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), each drawing separate plans for adjoining parts of the same city. In addition, the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority (BMICAPA) will draft its own CMP for about 90 sq km under its control. This means Bengaluru will be governed by three master plans drafted by three agencies with overlapping mandates, and no unifying vision. This is not reform; it is institutional chaos disguised as administrative restructuring.

**Bengaluru's future demands one accountable authority, not a patchwork of competing documents**

The dangers are not exaggerated. When 110 villages were merged into the city in 2007, they were incorporated into the BBMP, but never integrated into a co-ordinated planning process. Many of these areas still lack basic civic amenities such as piped water, drainage, proper roads, and stormwater networks. They were absorbed on paper but excluded in practice because planning responsibilities were diffused, and accountability went missing. The city still bears the scars of that fragmented approach.

Each agency defining its own CMP is a recipe for disaster, especially when Bengaluru's growth spills seamlessly into not only the now-renamed Bengaluru South and North, but also other neighbouring districts, which are slowly becoming an extension of the city. A city's problems — traffic, housing, climate resilience, mobility — do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Bengaluru needs one metropolitan plan under one accountable authority, not a patchwork of competing documents. Fragmentation leads to contradictory zoning, confused implementation, and a future built on ad hoc fixes rather than sound design. If Bengaluru is to reclaim coherence and plan for the next 30 years, rather than the last 15, it must reject piecemeal planning. An updated CMP is the need of the hour because Bengaluru can no longer afford to plan for tomorrow with tools from another era. The city's future cannot be imagined in fragments. It must be conceived and executed as one.

DECOLONISING THE MIND

# India must outgrow, not erase Macaulay

Modi's call highlights the need for cognitive decolonisation beyond political freedom

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently called for a national effort to 'free ourselves from the mindset of slavery that Macaulay imposed on India,' he tapped into intellectual discourse that stretches from Africa to Asia, from Frantz Fanon to Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, from Ashis Nandy to Partha Chatterjee. The anxiety that colonialism left deep imprints on the imagination — on what a society values, and whose knowledge it considers legitimate — has animated scholarship for decades. It has sought to re-centre cultural confidence after centuries of epistemic displacement.

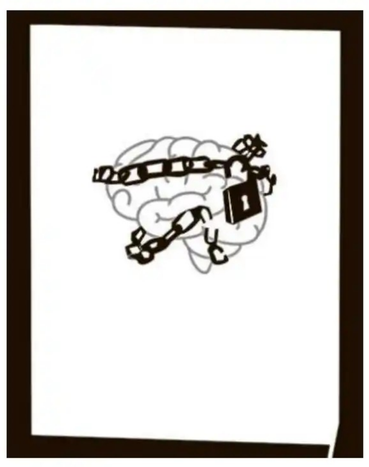
Yet India's case is distinctive. The Macaulay system, introduced in 1835, did more than change the medium of instruction. It reshaped aspirations, professional hierarchies, and perceptions of civilisation. English education opened doors to modern science and global mobility, but it also produced generations who associated advancement with distance from their roots. The concern — that a colonial mindset lingers long after the Union Jack was lowered — is genuine. Political decolonisation (the exit of colonial rulers) is only the beginning; the harder task is cognitive decolonisation.

Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o called this effort *decolonising the mind* — the recovery of cultural confidence after years of learning to see oneself through an outsider's gaze. Frantz Fanon warned that colonial rule generates 'Black skin, white masks' — a metaphor for the psychological cost of internalised inferiority. Ashis Nandy argued that colonialism 'colonised the Indian imagination', privileging certain ways of reasoning and diminishing others. The Subaltern Studies questioned why India's knowledge traditions had been marginalised. In short, why we remain coconuts — brown outside, white inside.

Modi's remarks gain significance because they arrive at a moment when India has the capacity to define its own trajectory — economically, strategically, and intellectually. If there was ever a time to ask how India ought to think, create, and educate in the 21st century, it is now. The core challenge is to banish the idea that India must choose between modern knowledge and its own civilisational heritage. The choice is not between English and Sanskrit, between STEM and the Upanishads, between global science and indigenous epistemologies. The real choice is between a borrowed model of modernity and a self-confident, plural, inventive Indian modernity shaped by dialogue, not deference. Fanon never argued for rejecting Western knowledge; he argued against uncritical admiration. Ngũgĩ did not oppose learning English; he opposed the unthinking elevation of English over one's mother tongue. Amílcar Cabral insisted that 'returning to the source' does not mean romanticising the past, but retrieving the cultural confidence necessary to shape the future.

For India, the task is not to erase Macaulay, but to outgrow him.

To outgrow Macaulay means acknowledging both the gains and the losses of the colonial encounter. English gave India access to global science and technology; it built bridges across linguistic communities; it fuelled India's entry into commerce, and diplomacy. But it also displaced Indigenous knowledge systems; narrowed definitions of merit; and embedded the idea that achievement lies in imitation of Western institutions, not in reinvention.



To outgrow Macaulay means recognising that the 'mindset of slavery' is not merely a linguistic issue. It shows up when an Indian researcher hesitates to publish in an Indian journal because foreign journals carry greater prestige. It surfaces when Indian universities are judged primarily by how closely they resemble American ones. It appears when social science frames local problems through imported theories without asking whether India's own intellectual archives offer deeper insight.

Modi's call opens three lines of national introspection.

The first is educational. India's National Education Policy (2020) already attempts to expand the intellectual canvas — mother-tongue instruction, classical languages, Indian knowledge systems, liberal arts, and multidisciplinary universities. But the deeper shift is epistemological. Decolonising the curriculum requires not merely adding ancient texts, but asking foundational questions: What counts as knowledge? Whose voices are stored in the syllabus? Why do we read Aristotle and not Kautilya with equal seriousness? Why are Indian systems of logic, medicine, mathematics, aesthetics, and governance treated as cultural artefacts rather than as living knowledge traditions with analytical value?

The second is institutional. Indian universities often remain tethered to colonial-era bureaucratic structures — rigid hierarchies, credentialism, and excessive dependence on foreign validation. A decolonised higher education system would reward original thinking over conformity, research rooted in local realities over derivative scholarship, and institutional autonomy over bureaucratic micromanagement. It would cultivate confidence without indulging chauvinism.

The third is imaginative. As thinkers like Achille Mbembe remind us, decolonisation is fundamentally about re-imagining horizons. It asks: What futures can we envision when we no longer see ourselves as inheritors of someone else's model of progress? For India, this means reclaiming its own archive not as nostalgia but as generative inspiration. India's intellectual traditions — whether the rationality of *Nyaya*, the pluralism of the Sramana traditions, or the environmental ethics of indigenous communities — offer conceptual resources for everything from sustainability to artificial intelligence ethics. They are not relics; they are assets.

But decolonisation must guard against an equal and opposite danger: indulging in civilisational insularity or cultural triumphalism. Decolonising the mind is about building self-confidence, not self-enclosure. This is where the prime minister's 10-year horizon gains significance, not as a political timeline; it is an intellectual one. It signals the need for patient reconstruction — of curricula, institutions, research priorities, and social attitudes. It invites the country to imagine an India that is neither derivative nor defensive but comfortably itself. Modern India need not reject the English language to reclaim its mind. What it must reject is the assumption that progress lies only in foreign paradigms. A confident civilisation learns from the world without losing its centre of gravity. Decolonisation, at its best, is the art of recovering that centre.

We cannot undo the past. But we can build a future in which the Indian mind — curious, inventive, global — no longer needs Macaulay as its reference point. That is the true measure of intellectual freedom, for India and the world.

*(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# Where the river teaches

Each river carries memories of millennia in its undercurrents

SUDHIRENDAR SHARMA

Hazy memories of my first crossing a river on a sunny afternoon are still alive in my mind. An army man had walked me across the rocky bed of the river. It was much later that Heraclitus' most quoted words had occurred to me: you cannot step into the same river twice. Years later, I stood again at the riverfront in Nanded without stepping into the Godavari this time, aware that Guru Gobind Singh had once lived by its banks.

Without a cultural overdose, embedded deep in our psyche is the belief that rivers are goddesses to be revered. No one taught us this explicitly—it was absorbed in subtle and profound ways. My grandmother would postfix 'Ganga' to the name of any river, big or small, much to the irritation of my younger, educated sensibilities. The philosophical innocence behind such devotion is still revealing itself to me!

I could never hold rivers in ritualistic reverence, yet the sheer mention of a river has always stirred excitement. The river as a metaphor of human existence—holding answers within its flow to our foibles, loneliness, boredom, anxieties, frustration and helplessness—has remained intriguing but abstract. I often wish I had lived by a river long enough to unlock its secrets.

One such intrigue relates to Gulzar's inimitable poetic expression–*apna kinara nadiya ki dhara hai*. How mainstream could anybody's 'destination' be? The expression is loaded; its essence lies beneath the obvious. I have always felt that the mainstream of a river epitomises continuum; life and death are mere manifestations along its course and cannot truly be destinations.

My first lesson on *karma*, the core philosophy of *Gita*, came while travelling through the Kosi basin in north Bihar. Why would a mother be furious with her children? Perhaps it was the river's need to correct her course or, more importantly, to perform her *karma*—the thankless task of land-building for human prosperity.

I knew nothing of hydrological engineering, but after that journey I sensed the worst. Just before the devastating deluge of August 2008, we prepared a report on Kosi's growing frustration at being unable to fulfil her duties. Liberate the river from embankments, we urged, or she will find her own freedom. Our emotive outbursts were no match for prevailing hydro-hubris!

Even the Brahmaputra has honoured no boundaries in its multi-country journey. Travelling 500 kilometres along its vastness was a different experience. A colleague once asked if such a mighty river could be dissuaded from eroding its banks. My answer has always been: engage with the river and it will listen. It is a living system with a heart of its own—we must learn to listen to its heartbeat.

My many journeys along rivers have only exposed my inadequacies. Our understanding is shaped by myopic knowledge that sees a river merely as a resource for manipulation and exploitation. Such restricted vision has held us back from understanding an ecological system that is possibly the very source of life on this planet. Each river carries memories of millennia in its undercurrents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Development should not mean replacing forests with concrete

Apropos 'Progress cannot mean ecological amnesia' (Dec 4), the High Court's order restraining the felling or translocation of hundreds of trees in Bengaluru's Jnanabharathi University campus is a major victory for environmental protection and for citizens who have long fought to preserve the city's remaining green lungs. At a time when Bengaluru is suffering from rising temperatures, declining rainfall, shrinking wetlands, and worsening air quality, safeguarding dense tree clusters in the heart of the city is absolutely essential. The Jnanabharathi area is one of the few places where biodiversity still survives and natural ecosystems cannot be recreated once destroyed. The authorities' attempt to clear this precious stretch of greenery for constructing new academic blocks is against the principles of sustainable development.
**N Sadhasiva Reddy**, Bengaluru

## Safeguard for future

Aporpos 'Progress cannot mean ecological amnesia' ( Dec 4), Jnanabharathi is not only a place of learning but one of the last lung spaces of the city. All green spaces in and around Bengaluru should be conserved to ensure a cleaner and healthier city. Besides, studies have shown that green cover is an essential element in creating an environment conducive to deeper contemplation, which is expected of postgraduate students. The government should alter its development projects in the interest of ecology.
**Biyona Jose**, Bengaluru

## Keep people informed

India's delicate balancing act between geopolitical blocs deserves sharper public scrutiny. As shifting alliances test our diplomacy, shouldn't citizens be kept better informed about the long-term strategic costs of ambiguity? Transparency builds trust, both at home and abroad.
**Jasper Blessy E**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The government is preparing to install mist sprayers on 305 poles at nine hotspots where pollution is a very serious problem... The government is ready to provide solutions to any pollution-causing factor.

**Rekha Gupta**, Delhi CM

Trivial things become big distractions. Serious issues become sound bites. And the truth gets buried under an avalanche of money and advertising.

**Barack Obama**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# In Germany, the centre moves right

In asking Syrian refugees to leave, Chancellor Friederich Merz has crossed into AfD territory

K M RAKESH

Germany's centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CBU) that helms the ruling coalition has begun to look more right than centre in its attempt to beat the far-right at its own game by coming up with more radical solutions to the migration problem.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz stunned even his own party colleagues and coalition partners by declaring that it was time for Syrian refugees to return to their homeland, which is limping back to normalcy with a new West-backed administration in place.

Germany alone had accommodated over a million Syrian refugees, or over 50% of those who arrived in Europe, during the massive humanitarian crisis that unfolded in Syria a decade ago.

Then Chancellor Angela Merkel had, in 2015, opened the doors for the refugees who arrived in Germany despite strident criticism from certain sections of the political spectrum.

She was lauded for her kindness in accommodating men, women and children who fled the strife-torn Middle Eastern country. But that one decision is now believed to have fuelled the rise of the far-right anti-migrant Alternative for Deutschland (AfD), which finished only second to the CDU in the elections held early this year.

Merz's announcement came after the latest ratings showed AfD marginally ahead of his party and could improve on its popularity if left unchecked. While many see the chancellor's worrying statement as a means to check the growth of AfD by bringing up the migration question, it has rattled the Syrian community and the larger migrant population in the country.

Leaders in his ruling coalition, especially from the centre-left Social Democratic Party, have voiced concern at Merz stepping on AfD territory in terms of issues like migration.

An area of particular concern for Germany is healthcare, as Syrians make up the largest group of foreign doctors in the country. Some 7,000 Syrians are now part of the approximately 428,000 doctors in Germany.

While most of the highly qualified and skilled workers and professionals who fled Syria have already become naturalised German citizens, Merz's statement has sent shockwaves even among them.

Syrian ophthalmologist Ammar Jabur told state broadcaster *DW* that he felt "unwelcome" in Germany after Merz's announcement fuelled anti-migrant social media comments.

Mediendienst Integration, a service platform for journalists, cited the Central Registrar of Foreigners to put the number of Syrian nationals in Germany at 948,000 at the end of September. This is a decrease of 3% compared to the end of 2024, either because many of them have acquired German citizenship or have returned to Syria.

The transitional government in Damascus headed by interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa had given a glimmer of hope to Syrian refugees around the world. But the civil unrest that led to the killing of hundreds of Alawite civilians, the once-privileged minority section from which former president Bashar al-Assad hails, had doused much of that hope for an immediate return to total peace.

Several European countries that host Syrian refugees had suspended processing refugees from Syria immediately after the transitional government took charge in Damascus. The idea of the voluntary return of Syrians to their country had gained traction with the collapse of the Assad regime.

Germany offers financial assistance to refugees opting to return to their home countries. The money is expected to act as a seed fund for returnees to reboot their lives in their respective countries.

But it is not clear how many takers there would be among Syrian refugees since much of their country is not habitable, let alone anything close to the kind of First World infrastructure and amenities they enjoyed all these years in Europe.

Supporting refugees and non-productive migrants has been a burden on the German government that is already faced with declining industrial output and an unemployment rate of 4.1% in September.

The German automotive sector has in particular been under tremendous strain due to dwindling demand for combustion engines in a global market rapidly looking at EV and other green options. As the Financial Times put it, "There is no European industrial crisis, only a German one."

But Goldman Sachs painted a more encouraging picture since the infusion of €500 billion for rebuilding infrastructure and defence is forecast to boost German GDP growth to 1.4% in 2026 and 1.8% in 2027, from the current 0.8%, and thus end the recession of the past couple of years.

Notwithstanding the forecast, the administration seems to be bent on reducing Syrian migrants, especially in view of the local elections next year.

*(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)*

# India's cybercrime crisis cannot be solved by surveillance theatrics

**SRINATH SRIDHARAN AND ANAND VENKATANARAYANAN**

Teenagers and young adults often rebel against parents who infantilise them and insist on knowing every detail of their lives. Most Indian parents typically justify this as concern for safety. Today, the Indian State echoes this family drama on a national scale, where well-meaning bureaucrats imagine themselves as parents to a nation of perpetually vulnerable citizens, convinced that constant oversight is care. The result is an ever-present digital companion called a 'Saathi' to supervise communications, 'Sanchar', in the name of protection.

It would help public confidence if there were greater clarity on whether Sanchar Saathi is government-owned and operated. Recent public discussion around systems such as DigiYatra—which enable airport facial recognition and is operated by a private entity—has already made citizens more sensitive to questions of ownership, accountability, and data stewardship.

A digital 'friend' that one cannot escape is what any teenager would call an abusive relationship. The power imbalance is so extreme that one party ceases to exist as an independent actor.

## How did we get here

To understand how we reached this point, one must examine the conditions that allowed India's cybercrime economy to grow unchecked, despite efforts of the well-intentioned.

The first contributor is the government policy itself. By pushing digitisation onto a population unprepared for it, and mandating the JAM framework, it created an unregulated market for identity-trading. That market flourished because of prolonged delays in data protection laws and persistent efforts by the State to exempt itself from its provisions. Meanwhile, government data systems don't give the comfort of anti-leak capabilities.

In the marketplace, stolen identities became financial instruments. They were reused, rented, and traded to open SIM connections, bank accounts, wallets, and loan profiles. These assets then entered a supply chain serving a parallel industry known as cybercrime entrepreneurship. Its operators did not merely steal data. They engineered products. Digital arrests. Fake investments. Customs notices. Courier scams. KYC frauds.

Like narcotics networks, these groups scaled distribution. Funds were laundered through wallets, online gaming platforms, cryptocurrency exchanges, shell companies, and payment processors, before being reinvested into the next iteration of fraud. Interestingly, we have still not banned cryptocurrencies despite knowing the worries.

The second force is survival. India skipped industrialisation-at-scale and moved straight to services. Jobs have not kept pace with population growth, and we have a large young demography that needs livelihood.

Under economic pressure, entire segments of the population adapted by becoming foot soldiers in cybercrime networks, much as grasshoppers under pressure transform into locusts. These are not criminals by character, but by circumstance. That's why you see many cyber tome bases in smaller towns, and not necessarily from large cities.

The third impulse is technological magical thinking. Policymakers assume digital inclusion would substitute for social mobility. They imagined that a data-rich population would become a money-rich one. Instead, frictionless data produced frictionless exploitation.

## Fraud stack

While India Stack matured as a legitimate digital backbone, 'Fraud Stack' rose alongside it as a dark reflection. Indian dark marketplace hosts an unnamed shadow system offering: Money Laundering as a Service (MLaaS). This ecosystem provides its own communication protocols, payment rails, and settlement layers. Its scale and efficiency rival formal financial networks such as SWIFT.

The final condition is social. India struggles to confront long-term structural problems. Technology cannot become a psychological refuge, and a meme for progress. That is how we have now reached Sanchar Saathi.

The government has now changed its stance from 'mandate' of the Sanchar Saathi app to its face-saver press statement that more citizens have eagerly adopted the app, and that forced mandate to phone manufacturers is not needed. It only shows the weakness of institutional policymaking about the digital world. In a democracy, shouldn't we have consultations and layers of stakeholder discussions, before a parliamentary debate, before any of these 'intrusive' ideas are asked of the citizens?

## A bargaining weapon

It is interesting that a bureaucracy that has been dependent on Western email systems until now, demands to occupy personal devices.

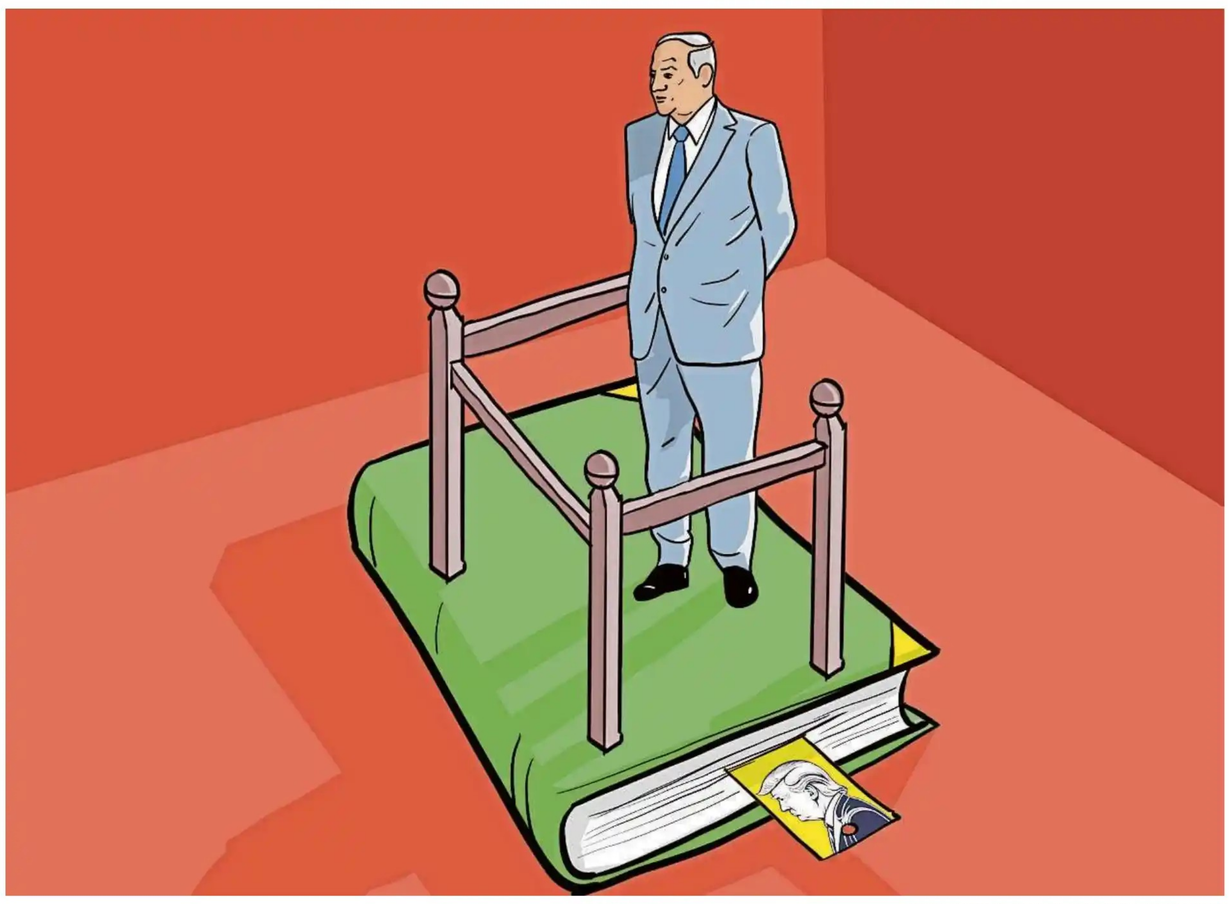
When public policy is replaced by leverage, market size becomes a bargaining weapon. Subsidies quietly evolve into pressure tools. 'Accept our mandates or leave' cannot be an industrial strategy. Manufacturers face a choice: comply and risk global consumer trust, or refuse and sacrifice market access. If companies leave, the losses will not be abstract. And a cybercrime economy born of unemployment will grow stronger.

Strong States build compliance through capability and consent. That distinction matters because software does not merely execute commands, it permanently reshapes behaviour. Once governance models itself as machinery rather than mandate, relationships between citizen and State begin to resemble transactions instead of trust.

Parents eventually learn that children are protected not by confinement, but by competence. Not by control but by capacity. Not by harsh words alone, but with values. Governments must learn the same lesson.

*(Srinath is a corporate adviser and independent director on corporate boards. Anand is co-founder and CTO, DeepStrat)*

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request mimics how US President Donald Trump has assailed his perceived enemies and attacked legal proceedings against him



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

# Netanyahu, seeking pardon, borrows from familiar playbook

**DAVID M HALBFINGER**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request Sunday for a pardon that would short-circuit his long-running corruption trial was made in the dryly polite terms of a legal brief, not in the provocative language of a social-media post.

In its sheer audacity, however, it seemed ripped from the playbook of another leader who did not let multiple felony charges, or even a conviction, stop him from seeking power: President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu's petition to the president of Israel, Isaac Herzog, admitted nothing and expressed no contrition. In a one-page letter that he himself signed, he did not use the word "pardon," instead stiffly requesting an "end of the trial." It came a little more than two weeks after Trump sent a letter to Herzog urging him to pardon Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's lawyers, in a 111-page filing, assailed the way he had been investigated, the timing of his indictment and the substance of the charges against him, and insisted that he would be acquitted in the end.

There, too, were many similarities in the filing to tactics favoured by Trump, including demonising the law enforcement system, portraying Netanyahu as a victim and appearing to hint at the prospect of retribution.

The lawyers argued that for the good of Israel, its leader should be freed from wasting valuable time defending himself in court. (No matter that Netanyahu had rejected calls when he was indicted in 2019 that he step down to face trial rather than be distracted from running the country.)

The pardon request immediately hijacked the Israeli political conversation. It had been dominated by criticism of the Netanyahu government's highly unpopular bill to exempt many members of the ultra-Orthodox community from military service and of his efforts to sidestep a national commission of inquiry into the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack.

Opposition leaders had been assailing Netanyahu on those issues, on which polls show that the government is out of step with the public. Now they were forced to pivot to Netanyahu's pardon request, arguing that it could not be granted without steep concessions from the prime minister.

Naftali Bennett, who served a year as prime minister in 2021 and is planning a comeback in the next election, supported a pardon as long as it came with Netanyahu's "respectful retirement from political life."

The opposition leader, Yair Lapid, declared that the president could not legally pardon Netanyahu "without an admission of guilt, an expression of remorse and an immediate retirement from political life."

Reuven Hazan, a political science professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said that Netanyahu's request was intended to distract.

"He threw this out there to have us do what we're doing right now, which is talk about this and not those other issues," Hazan said. "He moves the agenda. And there's no one in Israeli politics that can do it as well as he can."

There also may be no one in Israeli politics with as much chutzpah.

In a video statement released with his pardon request, Netanyahu portrayed his gambit to escape trial as a public-minded sacrifice.

"My personal interest was to continue the process to its end, until full acquittal on all charges," he said. "But the security and political reality, the national interest—these require otherwise."

Of course, for two years, Netanyahu said he was too busy prosecuting Israel's war in the Gaza Strip to be bothered defending himself against prosecution on graft and breach of trust charges. By that logic, he should have plenty more bandwidth now to handle his criminal defence.

But his lawyers instead pointed to unspecified "golden opportunities" for Israel in the Middle East. This was presumably an allusion to expanding the Abraham Accords to include normalisation with Saudi Arabia, a much-dangled possibility—if only the prime minister were "able to devote all of his time and energy" to capitalising on them.

The trial began in 2020 and has moved slowly, with the prime minister frequently asking for delays. His lawyers say they expect to call as many as 100 witnesses in his defence, and some estimates now suggest the trial might not conclude until 2028.

Netanyahu testified Monday but successfully asked to cancel his scheduled appearance Tuesday, a court spokesperson said. He is next due in court Wednesday.

In the video Sunday, Netanyahu warned that going ahead with his trial "tears us apart from within, fuels fierce disputes and deepens rifts." He suggested that aborting it would "greatly help lower the flames and advance the broad reconciliation our country so urgently needs."

Mitchell Barak, an Israeli pollster who worked for Netanyahu in the 1990s, called the reference to societal rifts laughable.

"He's the one that caused the divisiveness, and he continues to cause it," Barak said.

Still, Hazan saw the move as a brilliant ploy. If Netanyahu's petition works, he escapes criminal liability. If it does not, and his trial proceeds, he has a new issue to run on in next year's election—a supposed witch hunt against him.

"The whole letter is written in a way that allows him to campaign on this if he's not given a pardon," Hazan said.

In portraying himself as a victim of an out-of-control law-enforcement system in his pardon request, Netanyahu again bears more than a passing resemblance to Trump, who howled over his own victimhood during his criminal and civil trials and made it a central campaign theme in 2024.

The self-praise rings a bell, too: Netanyahu's lawyers note that they couldn't possibly recount all that the prime minister has done for Israel over his lifetime. Then, they spend more than 1,300 words doing just that, from his military service as a commando in his 20s, to his economic stewardship and infrastructure investments, to his national-security record in fighting enemies including Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas.

In fact, in their zeal to make every plausible argument for a pardon, Netanyahu's lawyers invoked an Israeli law that offered amnesty to some people convicted of nonviolent crimes, in which special consideration was to be given to those who "contributed to the security and resilience of the state," especially in the two-year war against Hamas. The implication was clear: Netanyahu himself was one such soldier deserving of forgiveness.

Despite Netanyahu's promises to unify the country if pardoned, critics saw an air of menace in his statements Sunday.

Netanyahu noted that, if pardoned, he would be free to resume making policy on the judicial system and the media. He was forced to recuse himself from those issues because of his trial on charges that he arranged favours for media tycoons in exchange for gifts and sympathetic news coverage for himself and his family.

That could pave the way for Netanyahu or his allies to try to exact retribution against those he holds responsible for putting him on trial, some critics suggested.

The parallels with Trump may end with Netanyahu's reliance on Trump's backup for his pardon request, said Gayil Talshir, a lecturer in political science at Hebrew University.

Trump wrote to Herzog two weeks ago urging that he "fully pardon" Netanyahu and calling the case against him a "political, unjustified prosecution."

Netanyahu cited Trump's appeal to Herzog in his video statement Sunday.

Talshir pointed to that Trump letter as a sign of Netanyahu's sheepishness—a significant point of departure from the American president.

**The New York Times**

# Saving the city from the ground up

**A N GANESHAMURTHY**

Every year on December 5, the world pauses to honour one of the most essential yet overlooked foundations of human life: soil. World Soil Day, instituted by the FAO of the United Nations, is not merely an environmental observance; it is a global reminder that the thin living layer beneath our feet quietly sustains our food, ecosystems, economies, and wellbeing.

In 2025, the theme "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities" invites the world to shift its attention from rural farms to the ground beneath urban landscapes. With over 56% of the global population now living in cities, the health of urban soils has become critical to addressing many of the challenges modern cities face: food insecurity, pollution, extreme heat, flooding, water scarcity, and declining green spaces. This year's theme highlights that the resilience of India's cities depends--quite literally--on the soil they stand upon.

WORLD SOIL DAY

When people think of soil, they imagine farmlands, forests, or countryside fields. Yet every city—beneath parks, tree-lined streets, medians, playgrounds, and backyard gardens—is supported by soil that performs extraordinary ecological functions.

Healthy urban soils play a vital role in creating liveable cities. They help regulate climate by reducing the urban heat island effect, where city temperatures can rise 3–8°C above surrounding areas. Vegetated soils act as natural coolants, supporting green belts, parks, and community gardens that function as urban "air conditioners". They also prevent flooding, an increasing threat as climate change intensifies rainfall, by absorbing stormwater, filtering it, and replenishing groundwater, unlike concrete surfaces that cause waterlogging.

Beneath the surface, healthy soil hosts a vast web of life—bacteria, fungi, insects, and earthworms—that supports pollination, decomposition, and plant growth. This living soil is also the foundation of urban agriculture, from rooftop beds to backyard gardens, helping families grow fresh food and reducing dependence on long supply chains. Equally important, soil-rich green spaces improve mental and physical wellbeing, providing "Vitamin N" through gardening and nature contact, which reduces stress and boosts community health.

Despite its enormous value, urban soil is among the most degraded natural resources. The FAO warns that nearly one-third of the world's soils are degraded, and city soils face the harshest pressures:

- Contamination from industrial waste, construction debris, chemicals, petroleum residues, and heavy metals
- Compaction from heavy machinery, reducing infiltration and killing soil organisms
- Loss of organic matter when topsoil is removed during construction
- Paving and soil sealing with concrete and asphalt, which suffocates soil life and disrupts the water cycle

These pressures weaken plant growth, threaten food safety in community gardens, reduce groundwater recharge, and harm the ecosystems that make cities liveable.

World Soil Day 2025 therefore issues an urgent call: cities cannot thrive without healthy soil, and soil cannot remain healthy without informed, responsible communities.

This year's theme is a framework for action that encourages governments, planners, schools, and residents to become custodians of the soil beneath their feet.

**Urban soil restoration and protection:** Cities must rehabilitate degraded soils using compost, organic amendments, mulching, and microbial inoculation. Protecting existing soils from further sealing is equally essential.

**Expanding green infrastructure:** Replacing paved surfaces with soil-based solutions—parks, bioswales, rain gardens, green corridors, and tree belts—helps reduce flooding, cool cities, and support biodiversity. Soil should be recognised as a vital part of urban infrastructure.

**Championing urban agriculture:** Backyard gardens, community farms, and rooftop plots are powerful tools for improving soil health and strengthening local food systems. Even small steps—growing herbs in balcony pots or maintaining a tiny vegetable patch—contribute to urban resilience.

**Practicing responsible gardening:** Residents can support soil health by adopting eco-friendly methods: reducing chemical fertilisers, avoiding pesticide misuse, planting native species, minimising tilling, and protecting topsoil through mulching.

Urban progress must not be measured only in buildings and roads but also in how well we protect the natural systems that allow cities to function.

*(The writer is an ex-Emeritus Soil Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975**

### Borooah cites triple threat to India

Patna, December 4
Congress President D. K. Borooah today put the nation on the alert against "menacing moves" by China on the northern borders, rearming of Pakistan and the "destabilisation attempts in our neighbourhood." He told an international conference against fascism here that "the dark forces of no-imperialism and eastern racial arrogance are combining in a sinister attempt to snuff out the light of democracy in this part of the world."

**25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000**

### Azhar, Ajay Sharma get life ban

Chennai, Dec 4
The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) today imposed a life ban on former cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin as well as Test cricketer Ajay Sharma and a five-year ban on Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Jadeja, finding them guilty of match fixing, but exonerated wicket keeper Nayan Mongia. BCCI's disciplinary action committee decided on the punishment for the players indicted by the CBI.

OASIS | ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

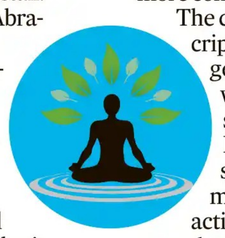
# Harnessing the power of deep thought

Our capacity for deep thought is our genius engine. If we look closely at the people who have genuinely changed the world, we find a shared trait: they were relentless analysts. Their profound depth of thought was the fuel for their breakthroughs.

B R Ambedkar's meticulous legal analysis and extensive deliberation shaped the very fabric of the Indian Constitution, demonstrating how careful consideration and a deep dive into complexity create a framework for social justice and lasting reform.

Similarly, Nobel Laureate Marie Curie refused to settle for "good enough". Her exhaustive, bordering on obsessive, analysis of data led her to revolutionary scientific discoveries; her deep dive was a testament to the power of relentless dedication to detail.

Sixteenth US President Abraham Lincoln, for instance, didn't make quick, emotionally driven decisions. His legendary melancholy was a by-product of a mind that felt the immense weight of every consequence, allowing him to navigate the Civil War with a nuanced, empathetic foresight no impulsive leader could match. Our analytical mind places us directly in this lineage. Ultimately, it's what allows us to see connections others miss, anticipate challenges before they arise, and craft solutions that are more complete and resilient.



The crucial difference between crippling anxiety and creative genius is direction. When worries spiral, don't try to stop them—externalise them. It pays to note down every single thought. Subsequently, marshal them: Underline the actionable concerns and cross out the hypothetical worries.

For decisions that don't matter, set a strict decision deadline of 5 or 10 minutes. When the timer is up, choose and move on. This practice trains our analytical mind to deliver our best within a constraint.

When our thoughts become too abstract and we feel we are losing contact with reality, we must use grounding techniques. Name five things we can see, four we can feel, three we can hear, two we can smell, and one we can taste. This simple practice instantly shifts our focus from unproductive thought to productive presence.

We possess the depth, the foresight, and the analytical strength to not just solve problems but to create extraordinary, thoughtful, and lasting solutions.

**STRATEGIC BOND:** Defence ministers of both nations meet ahead of Modi-Putin summit

# India, Russia to deepen ties with focus on niche tech

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**PARTNERSHIP PUSH**

- Rajnath Singh stresses boosting Indian industry capacity for defence exports
- Russian counterpart Belousov says Moscow ready to aid India's production goals
- Su-30 upgrades, more S-400s, R-37 missiles likely on Modi-Putin summit agenda

On the eve of the India-Russia annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, the defence ministers of both nations met on Thursday and decided to enhance collaboration on "niche technologies", without disclosing details of defence projects being pursued.

At the 22nd meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation, both sides reiterated that the relationship was based on a deep sense of trust, common principles and mutual respect.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh underlined the need to collaborate on niche technologies and boost the capacity of the Indian industry for local production and export of military items.

His Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov said the Russian defence industry was ready to support India towards becoming self-reliant in production, the Defence Ministry said.

While the ministry is silent on specific projects the two sides discussed, an ANI report said some of the proposals to come up for discussions in the Modi-Putin talk would include upgrading Su-30MKI combat jets, procuring more S-400 and similar air defence systems and equipping the fighter jets with R-37 air-to-air missiles that have a range of over 200 km.

In 2018, New Delhi signed a $5.43-billion contract with Moscow to procure five S-400 squadrons, of which three have been delivered so far.

The air-defence system that can engage multiple targets simultaneously played a critical role during the four-day conflict with Pakistan in May. India now wants to buy more such systems and missiles to replenish the stocks that were exhausted during the conflict.

The Indian side also stressed the timely delivery of the remaining two squadrons of S-400 by its manufacturer Almaz Antey.

Singh and Belusov signed a protocol highlighting the ongoing and prospective areas of cooperation. Russia remains one of India's most trusted military partners, supplying New Delhi with tanks, guns, warships, fighter jets, helicopters and submarines over the years.

With New Delhi cosying up to Washington, Russia's share of India's arms imports has dropped to 36% between 2020 and 2024, compared to 55% during 2015-19, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin travel in a car to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, upon latter's arrival in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

## PM Modi presents copy of Gita in Russian to Putin

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he presented a copy of the Gita in Russian to President Vladimir Putin. "Presented a copy of the Gita in Russian to President Putin. The teachings of the Gita give inspiration to millions across the world," PM Modi said in a post on X.

## Hold talks to expand fisheries, meat, dairy trade

India and Russia on Thursday held discussions on expanding bilateral trade of fisheries, meat and dairy products as well as address market access issues.

According to an official statement, Russia expressed willingness to import fishery and meat products from India. It also showed interest in veterinary vaccine development and animal health management. India exported fish and fishery products worth USD 7.45 billion in 2024-25, including USD 127 million to Russia.

## Our collaboration not against anyone: Putin

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The India-Russia collaboration is not directed against any country and it is solely aimed at safeguarding the national interests of the two sides, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said against the backdrop of Washington's aggressive approach towards New Delhi and Moscow.

In the context of India's energy ties with Russia, Putin said certain "actors" dislike New Delhi's growing role in international markets in view of its close relations with Moscow and these elements are aiming to constrain India's influence for political reasons by imposing "artificial obstacles".

In an interview to a news channel, the Russian president, referring to Western sanctions against Moscow, said his country's energy cooperation with New Delhi largely "remains unaffected".

Putin's trip comes at a time India-US relations are going through possibly the worst phase in the last two decades after Washington imposed a whopping 50% tariff on Indian goods, including 25% levies for New Delhi's procurement of Russian crude oil.

"Neither me nor Prime Minister Modi, despite certain external pressure we face, have never approached our collaboration to work against someone," the Russian president said in response to a question on Washington's aggressive approach.

**VLADIMIR PUTIN**
Russian President

"If the United States has the right to buy Russian fuel, why shouldn't India have the same privilege?

"President Trump has his own agenda, his own goals, whereas we focus on ours -- not against anyone, but rather aimed at safeguarding our respective interests, India's and Russia's interests," he said.

Rejecting Washington's objection to India procuring crude oil from Russia, Putin said if the US has the right to buy Russian fuel, why "shouldn't India have the same privilege". "As for India's purchase of energy resources from Russia, I would like to note and have already mentioned this once, the US itself still buys nuclear fuel from us for its own nuclear power plants," he said.

Putin also said that India cannot be treated the way it was several decades back.

"Prime Minister Modi is not someone who succumbs to pressure easily. The Indian people can certainly take pride in their leader. This is absolutely obvious," he said.

The Russian president did not give a direct reply to a question on if India was looking at procuring additional batches of S-400 missile systems.

"India stands out as one of our reliable and privileged partners in this area. We are not merely selling something to India and India isn't merely buying something from us in the sphere of defence and security. It is a different level, a different quality of relations we have with India, and we value this. We see how India values this relationship too," he said.

## 18k Indians deported by US since 2009; 3,258 in 2025: Govt

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** As many as 18,822 Indian nationals have been deported by the United States since 2009, including 3,258 since January 2025, the government informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said state governments and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have also investigated cases of human trafficking, in which Punjab has the maximum number of cases.

"Since 2009, a total of 18,822 Indian nationals have been deported to India," the minister informed in a written reply to a question.

He said 617 Indians had been deported in 2023, and as many as 1,368 were deported in 2024.

"Since January 2025, a total of 3,258 Indian nationals have been deported by the United States to India. Of these, 2,032 individuals (approximately 62.3%) were deported on regular commercial flights, while the remaining 1,226 (37.6%) arrived on US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operated charter flights.

"The NIA has registered and investigated 27 human trafficking cases, resulting in 169 arrests and chargesheets against 132 individuals. The NIA arrested two important traffickers in Haryana and Punjab on August 7 and then in Himachal Pradesh, two more people on October 2," the minister informed.

# Govt stopping foreign leaders from meeting LoP: Rahul

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged that the government tells foreign leaders not to meet the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) due to its "insecurity".

Rahul's remarks came hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day India visit.

He said it is a long-held tradition that the LoP meets a visiting dignitary, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs were not following this norm, and claimed that the government has been telling dignitaries not to meet him when they visit India or when he goes abroad.

"The tradition is that those who come from abroad have a meeting with the LoP. This used to happen during (AB) Vajpayee's time, Manmohan Singh's time, but what happens these days is that when foreign dignitaries come and when I go abroad, the government suggests to them not to meet the LoP," he said.

When referred to the Russian President's visit, he said India has relations with everyone and the LoP gives a different perspective.

"We too represent India. It is not just the government which does it. The government doesn't want the Opposition to meet people coming from outside. Modi-ji and the foreign ministry don't follow this," he said.

### Tarnishing country's image: BJP

Responding to the allegations, the BJP said it is the foreign delegation that decides on whom to meet and accused Rahul of creating a controversy to tarnish the country's image.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said when delegations come from abroad, it is they who decide who they want to meet, and the MEA facilitates this. "On a day when a senior foreign dignitary like Putin is visiting, creating such controversy to tarnish the country's image is an attempt by Rahul Gandhi that we strongly oppose," he said.

Patra asserted that there was no reason for the government to have any sense of insecurity from Rahul and the Gandhi family.

He also said Rahul met former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June 2024, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in August 2024 and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon in March and Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ramgoolam in September this year.

# Oppn MPs protest over Delhi's toxic air

**Sonia urges government to act as pollution worsens**

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Wearing high-grade masks, Opposition MPs on Thursday staged a protest outside Parliament House over air pollution in the national capital, with senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi saying it is the government's responsibility to act as children are dying and elderly people like her are suffering.

Carrying placards such as 'Delhi Deserves to Breathe' and 'Make Polluters Pay, Not Citizens', the MPs raised slogans against the government, accusing it of failing to control air pollution and urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop making statements and instead take concrete action.

They also held a large banner reading 'mausam ka mazaa lijiye' (enjoy the weather), featuring a picture of the Prime Minister, who had made the remark at the start of the Winter Session of Parliament.

Opposition MPs wearing oxygen masks participate in a protest over the issue of air pollution in the national capital, during the Winter session of Parliament. PTI

While Opposition leaders made their presence felt outside Parliament, BJD MP Sulata Deo raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha during Zero Hour. She took a dig at the ruling BJP, saying the "chaar sau paar" (400+) slogan during the Lok Sabha elections did not materialise, but air pollution levels in Delhi have now crossed 400 on the Air Quality Index.

She said development does not require cutting trees, pointing out that lung-related diseases are increasing among children and adults alike.

"In Delhi-NCR, pollution is in the dangerous zone. It is said that if the AQI is below 50, it is fine. In Delhi, it has crossed 400. The 'chaar sau paar' slogan was not successful (in the elections), but it has succeeded in Delhi," she said.

Separately, Sonia told reporters, "It is the government's responsibility to do something as children are dying. Old people like me are also finding it very difficult." Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said she has been demanding a discussion in Parliament.

What is required, she emphasised, is concrete action on an issue that is not political. "The government should take concrete action; we are all with it," she said.

The protests came a few days after the Union Health Ministry informed Parliament that, over three years between 2022 and 2024, the emergency departments of six central government hospitals in Delhi reported more than 2,04,000 cases of respiratory illnesses, of which over 20,000 required hospital admission.

## Parliament approves bill to levy excise duty on tobacco

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Parliament on Thursday approved a bill to levy a higher excise duty on tobacco and related products once the GST compensation cess ends, with the Rajya Sabha returning the legislation to the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, on Wednesday. Replying to a discussion on the bill in the Rajya Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this is not an additional tax, and the tax burden, as currently applicable under the GST regime, will continue.

"Let me assure straight away that the tobacco products will still be taxed under the demerit category at 40% in the GST frame of things. They will still be taxed at 40%, but there will not be any compensation," she said.

# Portal tracks progress in fight against child marriage

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN**

- 100-day campaign against child marriage launched nationwide
- 26 lakh citizens and frontline workers engaged in campaign activities
- Awareness drives in schools, colleges & universities
- Engagement with faith leaders, influencers, marriage service providers on child rights

A portal launched by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry to curb child marriage has now connected over 38,000 Child Marriage Prohibition Officers across the country. The announcement came at a programme marking the launch of a 100-day campaign to end child marriage.

Anil Malik, secretary at the WCD Ministry, said the portal enables people to track district-wise progress, view actions taken, and participate by taking online pledges. "Over 26 lakh citizens and frontline functionaries have already taken part in campaign activities, reflecting strong public mobilisation and growing community ownership," Malik said.

WCD Minister Annapurna Devi said child marriage is both a legal violation and a moral injustice. "The government's sustained interventions have contributed to an improved sex ratio at birth, increased girls' enrolment in education, and the overall empowerment of women and girls. The Union government has allocated Rs 1,827 crore for scholarships to ensure continuity in girls' education," she said.

She added that Indian girl students are excelling globally, with women comprising 43% of the STEM workforce, one of the highest shares worldwide.

The ministry on Thursday launched a 100-day programme across three phases. The first phase, which began on November 27 and will run until December 31, will focus on awareness activities in schools, colleges and universities through debates, essay competitions, interactive sessions and pledge ceremonies.

The second phase, scheduled from January 1 to January 31, will involve engagement with faith leaders, community influencers and marriage service providers to amplify messages on child rights, safety and empowerment.

**Women in uniform: Marching ahead**

As part of operational protocol, women personnel are deployed in section strength or buddy pairs. Flexible time and shift systems are being adopted wherever possible

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS IN RAJYA SABHA

# Retired armyman among 2 held for espionage: Guj ATS

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of the Gujarat Police on Thursday arrested two individuals — including a woman — on charges of espionage. They were allegedly passing classified information to their Pakistan-based handlers.

ATS officials said the woman was "in the process" of honeytrapping many individuals to obtain information in lieu of money.

The suspects have been identified as retired subedar major Ajay Kumar Singh, arrested from Goa, and Rashmani Pal, held from Dadra and Nagar Haveli. He was working as a security officer in a firm in Goa when arrested.

Asked how Pal got involved in the alleged espionage network, an ATS official told *DH*: "It was through social media. She is a housewife who was about to honeytrap many individuals."

While Singh is originally from the Baruna village of Ara taluka in Bihar's Bhojpur, Pal hails from the Mithapur village of the Mariahu taluka in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district.

The ATS said the operation was based on information obtained through technological analysis, human sources, and financial intelligence. It said Pakistan-based intelligence agencies were using social media, messaging applications, and fake online identities "to obtain secret and sensitive information from Indian men, women, and security-related personnel in exchange for financial assistance, and further using financial transactions to execute anti-national activities".

Officials said that a PIO disguised as "Ankita Sharma" trapped Singh during his posting in Nagaland's Dimapur in 2022. Since then, Singh had allegedly been sharing information related to "Army officers' transfers and stationing & movements of different units".

According to the ATS, the PIO sent a Trojan malware file to Singh's phone, "instructing him to save and instal it so that sensitive information would not need to be shared via WhatsApp, allowing the PIO direct access to his device".

Pal's name came up during the investigation into Singh. She reportedly told the police she was working as an "important conduit for Pakistani handlers".

PIOs identified as "Abdul Sattar" and "Khalid" allegedly offered financial benefits in exchange for creating a fake identity under the name "Priya Thakur" and using this to cultivate "friendships" with Indian Army personnel. Their details were allegedly shared with the PIOs.

They also provided her multiple cell numbers to "honeytrap" some individuals to obtain sensitive Army-related information.

The ATS found records of WhatsApp calls from international numbers, documents, and financial-transaction details from the mobile phones of the accused.

# Trinamool suspends MLA who announced plan to build Babri Masjid in Murshidabad

**KOLKATA, DHNS:** The Trinamool Congress does not practice communal politics, its chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday after suspending one of its legislators, Humayun Kabir, who recently put the party in a tight spot by announcing his plan to build a Babri Mosque in his constituency.

"We are firmly opposed to it," Banerjee said at a rally in Baharampur shortly after the TMC announced the suspension of Kabir, who was elected from nearby Bharatpur.

Without directly naming the just-suspended MLA, Banerjee said some "traitors" had taken money from her party's arch-rival, the BJP, to stoke communal tension, polarise voters, and ensure an advantage for the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Kabir was at the venue of the rally in Baharampur, but left soon after news spread that Banerjee's close aide and senior Cabinet minister Firhad Hakim announced the decision to suspend him.

"I will resign from the party tomorrow and launch a new party on December 22," said Kabir, who triggered a row by announcing a plan to lay the foundation stone of a new "Babri Masjid" in his constituency on Saturday, the anniversary of the demolition of the Ayodhya mosque in 1992.

His plan exposed the Trinamool Congress to sharper criticism from the BJP, which had already been accusing Banerjee and her party of turning the state's Muslims into a vote-bank and having an appeasement policy.

Baharampur and Bharatpur are part of Murshidabad, a district that saw communal violence on April 11-12 as protests against the new Waqf (Amendment) Act turned violent.

Banerjee on Thursday invoked Murshidabad's pluralistic legacy and warned people against attempts to disturb the communal harmony ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

Kabir, visibly angry over his suspension from the party, said the party he would launch would field candidates in about 135 of the 294 Assembly constituencies in the April-May elections.

## Bijapur: Bodies of six more Naxalites found; toll rises to 18

**BIJAPUR (CHHATTISGARH), PTI:** Six more bodies of Naxalites have been recovered following an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, taking the toll in the gun battle to 18, officials said on Thursday.

Three personnel of the District Reserve Guard, a unit of the state police, were also killed in the gunfight which took place on Wednesday.

Following a prolonged intermittent exchange of fire that lasted for around 12 hours, bodies of 12 Naxalites were recovered till late Wednesday evening, Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P said.

Six more bodies were found till Thursday morning during a search.

The operation involving personnel of the DRG from Dantewada and Bijapur, and Special Task Force, both units of the state police, and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action-an elite unit of CRPF) was launched based on inputs about the presence of west Bastar division and PLGA company no 2 of Maoists in the area, he said.

"Our security forces bravely retaliated to the Maoists' firing, but unfortunately, our three brave jawans belonging to DRG Bijapur were martyred in the action," he said.

One of the killed Naxalites has been identified as Modiyami Vella, while the identity of the remaining is yet to be ascertained, the IG said.

Vella was active as commander of company no 2 of PLGA (People's Liberation Guerrilla Army) of Maoists and involved in several incidents, including the 2020 Minpa ambush (Sukma), wherein 17 security personnel lost their lives.

# Busy calendar ahead as India to launch seven satellites in four months

### To feature first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission and dedicated earth observation platform

**KALYAN RAY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In the next four months, India plans seven satellite launches, including the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan programme and a dedicated earth observation platform to keep an eye on the strategically important Indian Ocean Region, the Union government informed Parliament on Thursday.

The upcoming missions also include a second strategic satellite, an Indo-Mauritius joint satellite to be launched by the first industry-made PSLV and the first commercial flight of the small satellite launch vehicle, a rocket designed to provide launch-on-demand services for industry.

The first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan will demonstrate aerodynamic characterisation of the human-rated launch vehicle, mission operations of the Orbital Module, and the re-entry and recovery of the Crew Module, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to a query.

Two different rockets will be used to launch satellites for strategic users. While the GSLV will carry EOS-05, presumably to a higher orbit, the workhorse PSLV will be used for EOS-N1 along with 18 co-passenger satellites.

Sources said the Indian Navy may be the user for EOS-05, while other agencies will utilise EOS-N1 to keep an eye on China and Pakistan.

The launches scheduled by March 2026 include a Technology Demonstration Satellite (TDS-01) to showcase new technologies such as a high-thrust electric propulsion system, an indigenous Travelling Wave Tube (TWT) amplifier and quantum key distribution.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) will launch BlueBird Block-2 satellites, a new generation of communication satellites developed by US firm AST SpaceMobile to provide direct-to-smartphone satellite internet connectivity.

Among the satellites planned for a March launch is the Oceansat-3A (EOS-10) for meteorological, oceanographic and land applications.

The satellite has an Ocean Colour Monitor, a Scatterometer, a Sea Surface Temperature Monitor and a Millimetre-wave Atmospheric Temperature and Humidity Sounder as payloads. The satellite, in tandem with Oceansat-3 (EOS-06), will provide daily data for various applications.

In 2022, the New Space India Limited awarded a contract to a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited-L&T consortium to build five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles. The first of the five will be among the seven launches planned in the first quarter of 2026. Subsequently, the HAL has bagged another contract to manufacture the SSLVs for 10 years.

Minister Singh said these missions would further establish India as a major player in the commercial launch services market and demonstrate new technologies.

Responding to another query, Singh said between January 2004 and December 2013, there were only 54 satellite launches, including 31 foreign ones, whereas between January 2014 and November 2025, 454 satellites were launched by Isro, including 398 foreign satellites.

**SPACE SPRINT**

- GSLV to carry EOS-05, PSLV for EOS-N1 with 18 co-passengers
- EOS-05 may serve Indian Navy; EOS-N1 to monitor China, Pakistan
- TDS-01 to test high-thrust electric propulsion, indigenous TWT amplifier, quantum key distribution
- Isro launched 454 satellites since 2014, compared to 54 during 2004-2013

# Provide more staff to EC for electoral roll revision: SC to states

### Flags extreme pressure on booth-level officers

NEW DELHI, PTI

Taking note of a plea alleging extreme work pressure faced by booth-level officers (BLOs) engaged in the time-bound special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Supreme Court directed states on Thursday to consider deputing additional employees to reduce working hours.

The court was hearing an application filed by actor Vijay's party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), seeking a direction to the Election Commission (EC) not to take coercive action under the Representation of the People (RP) Act against BLOs for not performing their duty in a time-bound manner, and pointing out that many of them had died by suicide due to work pressure.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi took note of the submissions made by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who appeared for the TVK, that some instructions needed to be issued as many BLOs, who were either teachers or anganwadi workers, had died due to the extreme pressure exerted on them by EC officials.

Sankaranarayanan said that, moreover, EC officials were also lodging FIRs against the BLOs if they failed to perform their duties.

Block level officers collect and verify filled enumeration forms of voters as part of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on Thursday. PTI

The CJI said states might consider deploying additional staff so that the work pressure is eased.

The states might consider the "desirability of deputing additional staff at the disposal of the EC, so that the working hours can be proportionately reduced", an order issued by the court said.

**Relief, with conditions**

The bench said that if any employee had any "specific reason" for seeking exemption from SIR duty, the competent officer of the state could consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and replace the employee with another.

"However, it shall not be construed or understood as if they can withdraw employees who have been assigned the duty if their substitutes are not provided," it added.

The court further said the states where the SIR was underway "shall be obligated to deploy the requisite workforce at the disposal of the EC, though the strength of such employees can be increased as explained above".

The bench disposed of the plea, saying the other prayers, like seeking ex gratia compensation for BLOs who died during SIR, could be revived later, either by the aggrieved persons or the petitioner, by filing another application at a later stage.

The EC announced the SIR in the nine states and three Union territories on October 27. Nearly 51 crore electors will be covered in the massive voter-list cleanup exercise.

## Shah used SIR to make ground for Prez rule in Bengal: Mamata

**BERHAMPORE (WB), PTI:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday alleged that the EC pushed the SIR of electoral rolls as part of "Union Home Minister Amit Shah's trick" to create panic, claiming that had her government blocked the exercise, the Centre would have imposed President's Rule in the state.

Addressing a rally in Muslim-majority Murshidabad, Mamata also said the state was "not foolish enough to walk into the trap", urging people not to fear the enumeration exercise but to simply file their documents.

Mamata Banerjee

The TMC chief tore into the BJP, claiming that more than half of those who died in SIR-linked incidents were Hindus, and warning the party against "cutting the very branch it is sitting on".

"Don't be afraid of SIR. If we hadn't allowed it, they would have imposed President's Rule. Do you understand Amit Shah's trick? We will fight, we will win. They cannot starve us; they cannot take our property," she said in the rally.

Her remarks came a day after she accused Shah of "orchestrating" SIR to unsettle voters and "capture Bengal by trickery", saying the hurried revision had triggered panic and "dug the BJP's own grave".

"The BJP is indulging in religious politics over SIR. More than half of those who died in SIR-related incidents were Hindus. Don't cut the very branch you are sitting on," she said.

She also reiterated that she would never allow NRC or detention camps to come up in West Bengal. "If anyone is removed, we will bring them back legally. Bengal will remain safe and inclusive," she said.

Turning to the Waqf row swirling within the ruling party, Mamata accused "certain groups" of spreading misinformation that land records were being listed as religious sites as mosques or graveyards.

# Cong expels rape-accused Kerala MLA amid bail snub

**ARJUN RAGHUNATH**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Congress has expelled rape-accused Kerala MLA Rahul Mamkootathil from the party. The decision came soon after the Thiruvananthapuram principal sessions court rejected his anticipatory bail plea on Thursday.

Mamkootathil, who is the MLA from Palakkad, has been absconding for eight days, after the state police registered a case of rape and forcible abortion against him based on a woman's complaint. He is suspected to be in a hideout in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, there were unconfirmed reports that the police had already nabbed him, and a driver who helped him move around in Karnataka was also held.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph said the decision to expel Mamkootathil from the party was taken unanimously with the All India Congress Committee (AICC)'s approval. He added that Mamkootathil should quit the MLA post, but it was for him to decide.

Rahul Mamkootathil

Two sexual assault cases had already been registered against Mamkootathil. A woman leader of the Congress also alleged that she faced misbehaviour by Mamkootathil.

Mamkootathil was suspended from the Congress in August after sexual assault allegations surfaced against him. He also resigned from the post of the state Youth Congress state president.

**Damage control?**

The swift action by the Congress against Mamkootathil could be seen as a damage-control move as the crucial local-body polls are to be held on December 9 and 11.

By expelling Mamkootathil, the Congress hopes to parry the Left's criticism as rape-accused actor-turned-CPM MLA M Mukesh and a few other of its leaders who faced sexual allegations did not face any action from the party.

Even as there was criticism that the Congress was waiting for the outcome of Mamkootathil's anticipatory bail plea, party leaders said the decision to expel him was taken on Wednesday, and the AICC's formal nod was awaited.

Though some senior leaders earlier differed over action against Mamkootathil, the second rape case being registered against him rendered them unable to defend the young leader anymore, especially since the local-body polls were hardly a few days away.

The CPM celebrated Mamkootathil's "fall" by bursting crackers, as the Congress' youth brigade — comprising Mamkootathil and MP Shafi Parambil — was actively taking it forward and playing key roles in attracting youngsters.

Incidentally, Mamkootathil's expulsion came exactly a year after he was sworn in as an MLA after scripting a thumping victory in his maiden electoral fray in the Palakkad by-poll.

# HC allows lighting of lamp atop hill; TN govt opposes

**E T B SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a day of dramatic developments, Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday revoked the prohibitory orders imposed in Thiruparankundram and allowed lighting of a lamp on the occasion of Karthigai Deepam atop the hill, which is close to a dargah.

Despite the order, the Tamil Nadu government stood firm on its decision not to allow lamp-lighting at the Deepathoon and stopped Hindu outfit activists from climbing the hill.

"We are challenging the order," announced the police and asked the activists to leave the village or be arrested.

Meanwhile, the state government moved the Supreme Court against the order, saying it could lead to law-and-order problems.

**TN BJP chief Nagenthran arrested**

**Tamil Nadu BJP chief Nainar Nagenthran was arrested on Thursday when he, along with several other Hindutva activists, attempted to go atop the Thirupparankundram hill to light the 'Karthigai Deepam' lamp on a stone pillar.**

**According to police, when Nagenthran and others, including the petitioner Rama Ravikumar, tried to go atop the hill to light the lamp, they were told in clear terms that they will not be permitted.**

**As Nainar and others did not disperse, they were taken in a police van and taken away from the spot that led to the hilltop, which is also close to the Thirupparankundram temple on the foothill.**

The HC order came hours after a division bench dismissed the TN government's appeal challenging Justice Swaminathan's Wednesday order asking CISF personnel guarding the court premises to accompany the petitioner, Rama Ravikumar, with 10 people to the hill to help light the lamp.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, which manages the Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, refused to follow the HC order and light the lamp.

"Today is Sarvalaya Deepam Day. Therefore, Karthigai Deepam can be lit today also. This order should be read along with the earlier orders passed by this court. Except deputing the CISF personnel and the change regarding the date, in all other respects, the directions issued yesterday hold good," said Justice Swaminathan in his Thursday order.

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami lambasted the DMK dispensation for not implementing the court order.

The division bench held that the state government had approached it not to contest legal findings but "as a preemptive step" to avoid the consequences of non-compliance with the single-judge bench's directive.

Law Minister S Regupathy said the government was taking all necessary steps to ensure maintenance of law and order in the state.

He said a division-bench judgement from 2014 made it clear that the Karthigai Deepam should be lit at the Uchipillaiyar temple and that the state would go only by the order of a division bench rather than a single-judge bench.

## Film producer AVM Saravanan passes away at 86

**CHENNAI, DHNS:** Veteran producer and owner of AVM Studios, M Saravanan, died on Thursday morning due to age-related illness. He was 86.

AVM Saravanan

He is survived by his son M S Guhan and daughter Usha.

One of the titans of the film industry, Saravanan, took AVM Productions to greater heights.

It was under AVM's banner that Kannada film thespian Dr Rajkumar made his debut in the 1954-film *Bedara Kannappa*, which went on to become the first Kannada film to win a National Film Award in the best feature film category.

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CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)/2025-26/28335 Date: 02.12.2025

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|---|---|---|
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| 4 | Providing 5 MT and above payload LPT vehicle/Mini Lorry Service with Cargo length compatible to carry 9 mtr RCC Poles along with driver to O & M Divisions coming under the jurisdiction of Hassan Zone | C2-6429/ 02-12-2025 |

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **Dated: 08.12.2025.** For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/ 22631200/ 68948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

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DIPR/MYSORE/1329/SSC/2025-26 Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.

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The interested Law Firms may fill the Google Form available on BDA website **www.bdakarnataka.in** or submit Application in sealed envelope which should be handed over to the office of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru **on or before 12.12.2025 and the contact person is Sri N. Srinivas, Superintendent, BDA, Mob. No.: 9071144421.**

Sd/- Commissioner, BDA , Bengaluru.

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Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Managing Director, KCOGF Ltd., for **supply of Security Services for 2 years** at the following places:

**Package 1:** Head Office, Bengaluru-01 and No.218, Oil Packaging Station, Whitefield, Kadugodi main road, Bangalore-66

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Details of the specifications can be obtained from e–Procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **05.12.2025 to 19.12.2025.** Any changes or corrigendum may be viewed through e-Procurement Portal. Further information may be obtained from the above office.

Sd/ Managing Director

**KKRTC CIVIL DIVISION, KALABURAGI**
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No: KKT/EEG/KLB/DB/784/2025-26 Date : 04/12/2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 12/2025-26**

**Through GOK e-procurement platform WWW.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Eligible Class-I Civil Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka at KPWD/CPWD /MES are hereby invited for the below works in Two cover system through E-procurement portal mode.

Sl. No.1) Name of work : Extension of Bus Station with Passenger Aminities Centre in Old Bus Depot at Indi. Amount put to Tender **(Rs.in lakhs) 700.00,** Last date for receipt of tenders : **02-01-2026**. The tender schedule will be available website mentioned as below.

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No: KSIC/PR/ITEMS-W/2025-26 Date: 03.12.2025

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| Sl. No. | Particulars | EMD (in Rs.) | Last Date for uploading the Tender | Opening of Technical Bids |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Re-Tender for Supply of 600 Kgs of Sara Guard 2875. | 17,000/- | 03.01.2026 by 03.00 p.m. | 05.01.2026 @ 03.30 p.m. |
| 2. | Tender for AMC for 100 KLD Capacity Combined Effluent Treatment Plant for a period of 2 years. | 72,000/- | 24.12.2025 by 03.00 p.m. | 26.12.2025@ 03.30 p.m. |
| 3. | Tender for supply of a) 5400 Nos. Bar Soap. b) 180 Cans Hand Wash. c) 96 Litres Bathroom Cleaners | 6,500/- | 03.01.2026 by 03.00 p.m. | 05.01.2026 @ 03.30 p.m. |

Tender documents, details of the Notification, schedule, terms & conditions can be downloaded from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal help desk - 080-46010000 / 080-68948777.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4059/MAA/2025-26 GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)

# Tardy trials in acid attack cases a mockery of system: Supreme Court

## Asks high courts to submit details of pending cases within four weeks

NEW DELHI, PTI

Terming tardy trials in acid attack cases as a "mockery of the system", the Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the high courts to submit details of such pending cases across the country within four weeks.

Mooting the idea of setting up special courts for expeditious disposal of acid attack cases, the court also asked the Centre to consider amending the law so that the survivors are formally included within the definition of persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to avail welfare schemes.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also issued notices to the Centre and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on a PIL filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik that the victims be categorised as persons with disabilities.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the court that the issue would be taken up with "due seriousness" by the government.

The bench termed as "national shame" the prolonged delay of 16 years in Shaheen's own case, which has been pending since 2009 before a Rohini court here.

Shaheen, who also argued personally, said that she was attacked in 2009, yet the trial has still not concluded.

Expressing surprise over the delay of over 16 years, the CJI said, "The offence is of 2009, and the trial is not completed! If the national capital cannot respond to these challenges, then who will deal with them? It is a shame on the system! This is a national shame."

The CJI asked Shaheen to file an application in the PIL itself explaining why the matter has not been concluded, assuring her that the court may even take suo motu cognisance.

The CJI said the trial in her case must be held on a day-to-day basis. The CJI said that the aspect of pendency of cases and covering acid attack victims within the definition of persons with disabilities will be taken up after four weeks.

The bench, however, said that it will take up next week the issue of the delay in the trial in Shaheen's case.

During the hearing, Shaheen highlighted the plight of victims who are forced to ingest acid, often surviving with artificial feeding tubes and severe disabilities.

The CJI expressed shock and said he had heard about the incidents of acid-throwing but had never come across cases where victims were forced to consume acid.

# Former Mizoram governor Swaraj Kaushal passes away

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Former Mizoram governor and senior advocate Swaraj Kaushal, the husband of late BJP veteran Sushma Swaraj, passed away on Thursday afternoon. He was 73.

He was taken to AIIMS by his daughter, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, and other family members, following a chest pain complaint. However, doctors at the hospital declared him dead, the Delhi BJP said in a statement.

The mortal remains of Kaushal were cremated at Lodhi Road crematorium in the presence of Union minister Arjund Ram Meghwal, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the BJP's Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva, and several leaders of the party and the RSS.

A contingent of the Delhi Police accorded a final salute to the former governor at the crematorium.

Former Mizoram governor Swaraj Kaushal with his wife Sushma Swaraj. PTI FILE

Bansuri Swaraj, in an emotional post on X, said her father's affection, discipline, simplicity, patriotism and immense patience were the light of her life, which would never diminish.

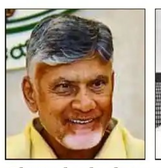
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, several Union ministers, RSS and BJP leaders paid floral tributes at the mortal remains of Kaushal at his daughter's residence in Delhi..

# Jagan accuses Naidu govt of foisting false cases

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of spinning a false narrative about adulterated ghee being used for Tirumala prasadam and levelling false allegations against the then TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy though not an iota of evidence was available.

Talking to reporters in Tadepalli, he said the Parakamani theft case was being blown out of proportion, but the fact remains that Parakamani was modernised with high-tech gadgets by the YSRCP government. It was due to the high-resolution cameras and tight vigil that the theft issue came to light.



Chandrababu Naidu

Jagan Mohan Reddy

He added that a recent theft at Simhachalam temple was hushed up and the accused was given a station bail, which shows the level of governance. When a complaint of harassment was made against the PA of a minister by a female employee, no action was taken.

Jagan also tore into the government for its failure to handle agriculture, education, and medical issues besides misusing police to foist false cases against political adversaries.

He said the state is running under the Red Book constitution.

"Not just putting public health in private hands, but the government has given a bonanza by issuing an order to pay salaries of the staff. Aarogyasri has been watered down and the dues are not being paid. The negligence of the coalition government in the education sector is glaring, with 29 students dying due to consuming contaminated water and food," said Jagan.

"The reforms brought in by the YSRCP government were negated and the fee reimbursement dues are mounting, resulting in agony among students. Farmers are in distress as they are not getting MSP," he added.

# Elgar Parishad case: Bombay HC grants ex-DU professor bail after 5 yrs in jail sans trial

**MUMBAI, PTI:** Former Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu, an accused in the high-profile Elgar Parishad case, was granted bail on Thursday by the Bombay High Court on grounds of prolonged incarceration of over five years without trial.

A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and R R Bhonsale, which completed hearing in the case in the first week of October this year, ordered on Thursday to release Babu and to furnish a personal bond of Rs one lakh with sureties of the same amount.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) urged the high court to stay the order so that an appeal could be filed in the Supreme Court, but it was rejected, citing the length of time Babu had already spent behind bars and also that the trial was "not likely to be completed soon."

The NIA had arrested the associate professor, whose full name is Hany Babu Musaliyarveettil Tharayil and who is a resident of Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, in July 2020.

Babu (59), who worked with the English department of the university, has since been lodged in Taloja prison. Babu's counsel, Yug Mohit Chaudhary, argued for bail on the basis that charges have yet to be framed and a discharge application is still pending before the trial court.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

HONEY, WAKE UP! I THINK YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
SNKZZ!
I SURE WAS! I DREAMED I WENT THROUGH FIVE DRIVE-THRUS, AND THEY FORGOT THE PICKLES ON MY CHEESEBURGER IN EVERY SINGLE ONE!
I WOKE YOU UP FOR THAT?
I LOVE YOU, HONEY, BUT NEXT TIME YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!

### Hagar The Horrible

### Beetle Bailey

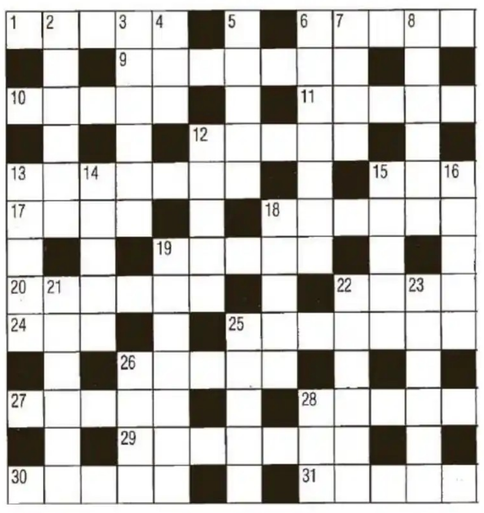
DON'T YOU COME SNIFFING AROUND HERE, OTTO! GET LOST!
I NEVER SNIFF AROUND HERE...
WHEN I PASS THROUGH THE BARRACKS, I HOLD MY BREATH!
GREG MORT WALKER

### Peanuts

ALL RIGHT, PARTNER, IT'S MATCH POINT...
WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE! THAT'S THE SECRET, PARTNER! CONCENTRATE!
I GOT A LETTER FROM MY BROTHER, SPIKE, TODAY...
HAS ANYONE EVER NOTICED THAT THE PORTRAIT OF CARL SANDBURG ON A THIRTEEN-CENT STAMP LOOKS LIKE PANCHO GONZALES?

### Marvin

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12303



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
1 Former 1500m star Steve? Get away! (5)
6 Slip smartly round the corner for the medicine (5)
9 Imagined that one was well liked (7)
10 Divided the 100 remaining (5)
11 Dolly, upset by old Harold (5)
12 Wise, perhaps, turning in before going out (5)
13 How a government employee may be of service (7)
15 Vessel said to be heavy (3)
17 Learn in the army (4)
18 Raise a hand to an officer? (6)
19 Once more, no loss (5)
20 Being naughty, perhaps, fury may surround it (6)
22 Sidney's noted team (4)
24 An opponent of backing EMU, initially (3)
25 Something arresting in a decanter, say (7)
26 Paper reporting trouble in the outskirts of Daventry (5)
27 The god of two-facedness? (5)
28 All this, to me, is incomprehensible (5)
29 Margaret's determined wins at cribbage (4,3)
30 Some nasty results are simply endless! (5)
31 Many an artistic fellow, nominally (5)

**DOWN**
2 The old king's about 51, pet (6)
3 There's romance in a very loud tune (6)
4 The basis of wrestling? (3)
5 A cry's possibly frightening (5)
6 Should such a crossing be a flyover? (7)
7 I had to go over half a mile, doing nothing (4)
8 Pay for an arrangement (6)
12 Poem written by a noted member on the 3rd of May? (5)
13 Husky banter? (5)
14 Against an illness that's not specific (5)
15 It's bulbous, like some wine glasses (5)
16 In one version, land of Peter Pan (5)
18 Nine in a pen - or scores! (5)
19 Geographical guides to the distribution of sea salt (7)
21 Traveller using some roads a lot (6)
22 Where anciently a strap broke (6)
23 Fair on December ten, possibly (6)
25 Cut a piece of cloth for about a pound (5)
26 In Urdu, perhaps, it means "fool" (4)
28 Stick a broken mug (3)

**ACROSS**
1 Defects (5)
6 Frighten (5)
9 Nursing home (7)
10 Gem weight unit (5)
11 Foe (5)
12 Explode (5)
13 Spear (7)
15 Beer (3)
17 Employs (4)
18 Rowed (6)
19 Beautiful girl (5)
20 Wobble (6)
22 Just (4)
24 Military leader (3)
25 Lasts (7)
26 Extent (5)
27 Warehouse (5)
28 Fiasco (5)
29 Sake (7)
30 Enquired (5)
31 Anxious (5)

**DOWN**
2 Beasts of burden (6)
3 Aquatic mammals (6)
4 Drunkard (3)
5 Reject (5)
6 Ceremonial staff (7)
7 US coin (4)
8 Hike (6)
12 Type of duck (5)
13 Military rulers (5)
14 Match (5)
15 Hand tool (5)
16 Borders (5)
18 Single (5)
19 Overdue (7)
21 Monster (6)
22 Change (6)
23 Responds (6)
25 Encouraged (5)
26 Dress (4)
28 Suitable (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12302**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 4, Garter 7, Do-r-m-ouse 8, Natter 10, Let on 13, Rid-e 14, Sled 15, Bee-r 16, Sty 17, Is-is 19, IS-A-s 21, Butterfly 23, Mime 24, Note 26, Job 27, Ante 29, Plot 32, Amis 33, S-ton-e 34, Popeye 35, Co-O-l head 36, Remove.
**DOWN:** 1, Idols 2, Write 3, D-own 4, Genie 5, Rate 6, Events 9, A-Dr.-ift 11, Elm 12, (p)Odium 13, Resents 15, Bit 16, Sa(LL)y 18, S-team-y 20, Slept 21, Bib 22, Roe 23, Morose 25, Ron 28, Ni-E-ce 30, L-over 31, Teddy 32, A-ero 33, Sild.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 4, Defame 7, Airliner 8, Orange 10, Apish 13, Open 14, Tuna 15, Last 16, Sum 17, Beer 19, Atom 21, Polo shirt 23, Veto 24, Mane 26, Pit 27, Play 29, Nail 32, Mean 33, Addle 34, Stress 35, Emeralds 36, Trader.
**DOWN:** 1, Carat 2, Train 3, Wish 4, Drops 5, Flan 6, Magnum 9, Retain 11, Pun 12, Sabot 13, Oarsman 15, Leo 16, Sot 18, Elopes 20, Trend 21, Pet 22, Hay 23, Victor 25, Oil 28, Laser 30, Adult 31, Leash 32, Mend 33, Acre.

## ◆SU-DO-KU-6769◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | | | 4 | | 1 | 8 |
| | | | 8 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | 2 | 6 | | 3 | | |
| 5 | | 2 | | | | | | 9 |
| | 7 | | 9 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| 8 | | | | | | 4 | | 7 |
| | | 7 | | 9 | 2 | | | 1 |
| | | | | | 7 | | | |
| 2 | 3 | | 5 | | | | 4 | |

medium

**SOLUTION TO 6768**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 |

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Double Word Score | RACK 1 |
| E1 | E1 | D2 | S1 | G2 | S1 | A1 | | |
| | | | | | | | Triple Word Score | RACK 2 |
| S1 | M3 | L1 | D2 | A1 | E1 | I1 | | |
| | | | | | | | Double Word Score | RACK 3 |
| E1 | I1 | S1 | D2 | G2 | N1 | E1 | | |
| | | | | | | | Triple Word Score | RACK 4 |
| A1 | B3 | B3 | N1 | O1 | O1 | S1 | | |

PAR SCORE 195-205
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P3 | E1 | R1 | M3 | I1 | T1 | | RACK 1 = | 10 |
| J8 | U1 | S1 | T1 | I1 | C3 | E1 | RACK 2 = | 98 |
| C3 | A1 | T1 | S1 | U1 | P3 | | RACK 3 = | 10 |
| E1 | M3 | A1 | I1 | L1 | E1 | R1 | RACK 4 = | 65 |
| | | | | | | | JUDD'S TOTAL | 183 |

PAR SCORE 120-130

## HITORI-3223

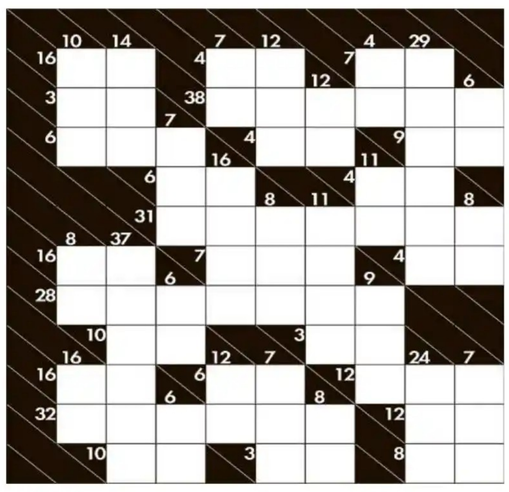
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 |

**SOLUTION TO 3222**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 3 | 6 | 5 | ■ | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | ■ | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | ■ |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 4 | 8 |
| ■ | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | ■ | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | ■ | 5 | 2 | ■ |
| ■ | 1 | ■ | 6 | 4 | ■ | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | ■ | 7 | 1 | ■ | 3 |
| 4 | ■ | 7 | 8 | ■ | 6 | 1 | ■ |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3223



**SOLUTION TO 3222**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3756

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | | | 6 | | | 5 |
| | 6 | 1 | | | | | ■ | |
| | | ■ | | | 5 | 1 | | 4 |
| 7 | | 9 | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | 9 | | 6 |
| | | | ■ | | 3 | 5 | | |
| | 1 | ■ | | 7 | | ■ | | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | | | | | | ■ | |
| 6 | | 5 | | | 9 | | | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3755**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

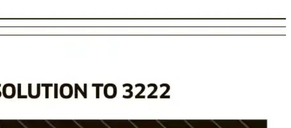
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NICIG

PMEOT

DYNITA

NHIBDE


We'll just keep putting them up there.
That's "S-U-M" great problem solving!
I've got more.
Next week is subtraction.
HIS LATEST MATH TEST TO EARN A SPOT ON THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR WAS A ---
5/27
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesteray's Jumbles: FENCE BOSSY KNIGHT WALLET
Answer: They were having fun swimming and building a sandcastle. Everything was — "BEACHY" KEEN

## India airlifts movable bridge system, more aid to Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO, PTI:** India has airlifted a movable modular bridge system and hundreds of water-purification units to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka as part of its ongoing humanitarian support to reconnect isolated communities and restore essential services in the island nation, the Indian mission here said on Thursday.

Sri Lanka has been grappling with widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse triggered by Cyclone Ditwah, leaving several districts isolated and severely straining the country's disaster-response capacity.

At least 479 people have been killed and 350 are missing as of Wednesday evening due to catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

A C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force flew in the Bailey Bridge system along with 500 water purification units on Wednesday, following a request from Colombo, the Indian High Commission said in a statement.

"The massive structure can be installed within a few hours to replace damaged bridges, significantly strengthening relief access and mobility for emergency services in landslide- and flood-hit areas," it said.

The flight also carried 22 personnel, including expert engineers to install the bridge and a medical team to assist the field hospital deployed earlier, the mission said.

# Trump admin tightens screening for H-1B, H-4 visa applicants

### Social media checks expanded under new vetting measures

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

The US government has expanded screening and vetting measures for H-1B visa applicants and their H-4 dependants, directing them to keep the privacy settings on all their social media profiles set to "public".

In a new order issued on Wednesday, the State Department said that beginning December 15, a review of the online presence of all H-1B applicants and their dependants will be conducted.

Students and exchange visitors were already subject to such scrutiny, which has now been extended to those applying for H-1B and H-4 visas.

"To facilitate this vetting, all applicants for H-1B and their dependants (H-4), F, M, and J non-immigrant visas are instructed to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media profiles to 'public'," the State Department said.

Underscoring that a US visa is a privilege and not a right, the department said it uses all available information in screening and vetting to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible or who may pose a threat to America's national security or public safety.

A protester walks ahead of Border Patrol agents who are out on the streets after US President Donald Trump launched an immigration crackdown in New Orleans on Wednesday. REUTERS

"Every visa adjudication is a national security decision," it said. The department said the US "must be vigilant" to ensure applicants do not intend to harm Americans and that all visa seekers credibly establish eligibility and an intent to comply with the terms of their admission.

The directive is the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration to tighten immigration rules. The administration has launched a major crackdown to prevent abuse of the H-1B visa programme, used largely by US technology companies to hire foreign workers.

Indian professionals, including tech workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders.

In September, US President Donald Trump issued a proclamation titled Restriction on Entry of Certain Non-immigrant Workers, imposing a one-time USD 100,000 fee on new H-1B work visas—an order that could significantly impact Indian workers seeking temporary employment in the US.

Separately, Washington has also paused with immediate effect Green Card, US citizenship and other immigration applications for people from 19 "countries of concern", following the shooting of National Guard soldiers by an Afghan national.

### DEEPER SCRUTINY

- H-1B and H-4 visa applicants are now required to make social media profiles "public" for vetting.
- From December 15, the State Department will review the online presence of every applicant; similar checks already applied to student and exchange visas.
- Trump administration says "every visa adjudication is a national security decision" and applicants must prove both eligibility and intent to follow rules.
- The directive is part of broader efforts by the administration to tighten immigration rules and prevent abuse of H-1B visa.

## NYT sues Pentagon over restrictive media policy

**The New York Times on Thursday filed a lawsuit challenging the Pentagon's new restrictive media policy, arguing that it is unconstitutional and asking a court to block its implementation, AFP reports from New York.**

**US and international media, including AFP, AP, Fox News and The New York Times, declined to sign the new policy in mid-October, resulting in their Pentagon credentials being revoked. According to the Times' complaint, the policy "in violation of the First Amendment seeks to restrict journalists' ability to do what journalists have always done—ask questions of government employees and gather information to report stories that take the public beyond official pronouncements."**

## Pakistan govt appoints Munir as first CDF

**ISLAMABAD, PTI:** President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday approved the appointment of the army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, as Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) for a five-year term.

President Zardari approved the summary submitted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif formally requesting the appointment of Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Munir as the country's first CDF.

Last month, Parliament passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment creating the post of CDF to ensure unity of command and expedite decision-making in critical situations.

The CDF replaces the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), a post that has now been abolished.

Zardari also approved a two-year extension in the service of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, the Chief of Air Staff, to take effect upon completion of his current tenure on 19 March 2026.

According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister had earlier approved the summary proposing Field Marshal Munir's appointment as both the army chief and the CDF, before forwarding it to the President House.

# Putin rejects parts of US plan as 'unacceptable'

### Ukraine talks stall as Russia pushes back on Trump plan

MOSCOW, AP/PTI

Russian President Vladimir Putin says some proposals in a US plan to end the war in Ukraine are unacceptable to the Kremlin, indicating in comments published Thursday that any deal remains some distance away.

US President Donald Trump has initiated the most intense diplomatic push to stop the fighting since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbour nearly four years ago. But the effort has run once again into demands that are difficult to reconcile, especially over whether Ukraine must surrender territory to Russia and how it can be kept safe from future aggression by Moscow.

Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law Jared Kushner are set to meet Ukraine's lead negotiator, Rustem Umerov, later Thursday in Miami for further talks, according to a senior Trump administration official who was not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Russian team led by President Vladimir Putin (right) with Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner (left) in Moscow. REUTERS FILE

Putin said his five-hour talks on Tuesday with Witkoff and Kushner were "necessary" and "useful", but also "difficult work", and that some proposals were unacceptable.

Russian state news agencies Tass said that Putin refused to elaborate on what Russia could accept or reject.

"I think it is premature. Because it could simply disrupt the working regime of the peace effort," Putin was quoted as saying.

## India abstains from UN vote on Ukrainian children

**India abstained in the UN General Assembly from a draft resolution that demanded that Russia ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all Ukrainian children forcibly transferred or deported since the start of the war, PTI reports from United Nations. The 193-member Assembly adopted the draft resolution 'Return of Ukrainian children' on Wednesday, with 91 votes in favour, 12 against and 57 abstentions.**

# China massing naval vessels in show of maritime force

TAIPEI, REUTERS

China is deploying a large number of naval and coast guard vessels across East Asian waters, at one point more than 100, in the largest maritime show of force to date, according to four sources and intelligence reports reviewed by Reuters.

China is in the middle of what is traditionally a busy season for military exercises, though the People's Liberation Army has not made any announcements of large-scale officially named drills.

Still, the rise in activity is happening as China and Japan are in a diplomatic crisis after Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said last month that a hypothetical Chinese attack on democratically-ruled Taiwan could trigger a military response from Tokyo.

Beijing has also been angered by an announcement last month by Taiwan President Lai Ching-te of an extra $40 billion in defence spending to counter China, which views the island as its own territory.

The Chinese ships have massed in waters stretching from the southern part of the Yellow Sea through the East China Sea and down into the contested South China Sea, as well as into the Pacific, according to four security officials in the region.

Their accounts were corroborated by intelligence reports from a country in the region, which detailed the deployment. Reuters reviewed the reports on condition it did not name the country.

As of Thursday morning, there are more than 90 Chinese ships operating in the region, coming down from more than 100 at one point earlier this week, the documents showed.

The operations exceed China's mass naval deployment in December last year that prompted Taiwan to raise its alert level, the sources said.

Tsai Ming-yen, director-general of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said on Wednesday that China is now in what is generally the most active season for its military drills.

As of Wednesday morning, China has four naval formations operating in the western Pacific, and Taiwan is keeping tabs on them, Tsai said, without giving details.

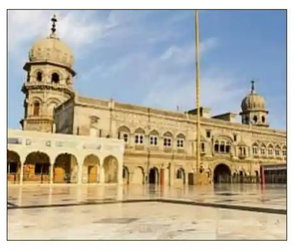
# Only 37 minority religious sites functional in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI

A report presented before a Pakistani parliamentary panel has revealed that out of 1,817 Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras, only 37 are functional, highlighting a dismally low number of operational religious sites belonging to minority communities.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Minority Caucus reviewed the findings during its introductory session on Tuesday.

According to the report, Pakistan has 1,285 Hindu places of worship and 532 gurdwaras, of which only 37 are currently operational, the Business Recorder newspaper reported. Members of the panel "emphasised the urgent need for the restoration and activation of all worship sites to safeguard religious heritage and ensure equitable access for minority communities," the report stated.



Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib, Punjab, is one of the few functional religious sites belonging to a minority community. SHAGUFTAKARIM/CC

"As per the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the rights of minorities are reiterated again and again. This caucus will work to ensure those constitutional guarantees translate into practical safeguards and policy reforms," said Senator Danesh Kumar after his election as convenor of the panel. The members expressed confidence that the forum would ensure minority rights are tabled, discussed and resolved.

The panel also discussed revisions to educational policies, including ensuring scholarships for minority students, removing hate speech and discriminatory content from English and Urdu curricula, and limiting religious viewpoints to the appropriate religious syllabus only.

TONGUE TWISTERS

## Zohran Mamdani, Louvre make list of most mispronounced words

DALLAS (US), AP/PTI

From the election of Zohran Mamdani to the intrigue surrounding the jewel heist at the Louvre, keeping up with this year's news also left some Americans struggling with pronunciations. That's put both the name of New York City's incoming mayor and the famed Paris museum on a list of the most mispronounced words in 2025.

The language-learning company Babbel and closed-captioning company The Captioning Group on Thursday released a list of the words that news anchors, politicians and other public figures struggled with the most this year, giving an overview of the people and topics that had Americans talking.

As Mamdani made his political rise, the democratic socialist's name was often mangled. When he takes office in January, the 34-year-old will become the city's first Muslim mayor, first born in Africa and first of South Asian heritage. Babbel said his name — which should be pronounced zoh-RAHN mam-DAH-nee — was most commonly mispronounced when people swapped the "M" and "N" in his last name.

Mamdani has said he doesn't mind if someone tries to pronounce his name correctly and misses, but that some mispronounce it intentionally. During one mayoral race debate, he chided former New York Gov Andrew Cuomo's pronunciation of his name, telling his opponent, "The name is Mamdani. M-A-M-D-A-N-I."

The theft of France's crown jewels from the Louvre in October had many people mispronouncing the name of the world's most-visited museum. Babbel says the correct pronunciation is LOOV-ruh, with a very soft pronunciation on the "ruh".

"A lot of these words come from different languages, and so we have to adapt to a sound that we've never made before," said Esteban Touma, a linguistic and cultural expert at Babbel.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bollywood actors Kajol and Shah Rukh Khan pose for a photo during the unveiling of the statue to commemorate the film "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" in London on Thursday. AP/PTI

### Critically ill former Bangladesh PM Zia to be taken to London

A medical board looking after critically ill former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia on Thursday decided to send her to London for advanced treatment, PTI reports from Dhaka.

Zia, the 80-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, will be flown in an air ambulance late after midnight or early Friday to London, where her elder son and acting BNP chief Tarique Rahman lives.

After she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs, Zia was admitted to a private hospital here on November 23 and four days later, shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU) after several of her health complications worsened.

"The medical board has unanimously decided that she will be taken to London via the Qatar Royal Air Ambulance, either after midnight tonight or early tomorrow morning," her personal physician, AZM Zahid Hossain told reporters during a briefing outside the hospital.

Hossain, who is also a member of BNP's policy making standing committee, however, did not explicitly comment on Zia's current health condition.

### Congo, Rwanda to ink peace deal

US President Donald Trump will host the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda on Thursday for a deal-signing aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Congo and opening access to the region's critical minerals for the US government and American companies, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The moment provides Trump — who has repeatedly and with a measure of exaggeration boasted of brokering peace in some of the world's most entrenched conflicts — another chance to tout himself as a dealmaker extraordinaire on the global stage and make the case that he's deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize.

An Israeli soldier detains a Palestinian man during a military operation in the town of Qalqiya, in the occupied West Bank on Thursday. AFP

### No relief for Singapore oppn leader

Singapore's High Court on Thursday upheld the conviction of opposition leader Pritam Singh for lying to a parliamentary committee while helping cover up a false account by a fellow party member, AFP reports from Singapore.

Pritam Singh, 49, secretary-general of the Workers' Party, had appealed a February district court ruling that found him guilty of two counts of lying to the committee investigating Raeesah Khan, then a rookie MP. Khan had admitted to fabricating a story she told in the legislature about accompanying a rape victim to file a police report. The district court had ruled that, contrary to what Singh told the committee, he had not done enough to get Khan to admit to her lie in parliament.

### UK targets Russian spy networks

The UK unveiled sanctions in a new crackdown on Russia's spy networks in the country after a public inquiry concluded on Thursday that President Vladimir Putin authorised a Novichok poisoning attack in Salisbury over seven years ago, PTI reports from London.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned Russia's "reckless aggression" in the March 2018 assassination attempt targeted at former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, who survived the poisoning attempt, which later claimed the life of British national Dawn Sturgess. The UK Foreign Office said that the Russian Ambassador to the UK, Andrey Kelin, had also been summoned to answer for "Russia's ongoing campaign of hostile activity against the UK".

Pigs are seen at a pig farm in Manacor, on the Spanish island of Mallorca on Thursday. Spain has deployed the army to help some officials to contain an outbreak of African swine fever that has sparked fears for the country's powerful pork export industry. AFP

# Fitch raises India's GDP forecast to 7.4% citing GST reforms

## RBI may lower key policy interest rate by 25 basis points

**VIEW ON ECONOMY**

- Private consumer spending remained the main driver of GDP growth
- GST rate cut and reforms played a role in boosting consumption
- For FY 2026-27, India's GDP growth pegged at 6.4%
- The growth is likely to ease further to 6.2% in 2027-28

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Fitch Ratings on Thursday raised India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.4%, from its earlier projection of 6.9%, citing increased consumer spending and improved sentiment, following the GST reforms.

India's GDP expanded by 8% in the first half of the 2025-26, exceeding the government, as well as independent agencies' projections, by a wide margin.

"Growth will ease over the remainder of the financial year 2025-26 (to end-March), but we have raised our full-year growth forecast to 7.4%, from 6.9% in September," Fitch said in its latest edition of the Global Economic Outlook report.

According to the rating agency, private consumer spending remained the main driver of India's GDP growth, supported by strong real income dynamics and enhanced consumer sentiment. Goods and Services Tax rate cut and reforms, which came into effect from September 22, have played a notable role in boosting consumption.

For the financial year 2026-27, Fitch has pegged India's GDP growth at 6.4%, which will be sharply lower than the current fiscal performance. The growth is likely to ease further to 6.2% in 2027-28.

"Public investment growth will ease in the context of relatively tight fiscal policy, but private investment should pick up in H2FY27 as financial conditions loosen; private consumer spending growth will also ease as rising inflation constrains incomes," it said.

The rating agency noted that the sharp decline in inflation should give the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) room for one more policy rate cut in December, following 100 basis points reduction in 2025, so far.

The three-day meeting of the central bank's rate-setting panel, the Monetary Policy Committee, started on Wednesday. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra is scheduled to announce the MPC decision on policy rates on Friday.

According to Fitch, the RBI may lower policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25% on Friday, which will be the end of its easing cycle. It added that the repo rate, or the interest at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks, would remain at 5.25% over the next two years.

The annual retail inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to a record low of 0.25% in October, as per the latest official data. Inflation is projected to remain low in the coming months on the back of a good monsoon and GST rate rationalisation.

Fitch Ratings upgrade on India's GDP growth comes days after the official data showed 8.2% expansion in GDP in the July-September period, the sharpest growth in six quarters.

The RBI is also widely expected to raise its GDP growth projection for the current fiscal substantially on Friday, after the first-half numbers beat its forecasts.

# Trade gap fix: India for greater access to Russian market

## Both countries eye increasing bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2030

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks at the India-Russia Business Forum in New Delhi on Thursday. REUTERS

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday called for the removal of trade barriers to boost exports to Russia in order to balance the sharply skewed trade equation.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum, Goyal said trade between the two countries has reached $70 billion. "But we cannot rest, we need to grow, we need to balance that," he added.

During the financial year 2024-25, India's import from Russia stood at $63.8 billion, while exports was just $4.9 billion, leaving a trade gap of around $59 billion. The trade equation is sharply skewed in the favour of Russia, largely because of India's oil imports.

To reduce the gap, Goyal has called for boosting India's exports. He listed six major areas in which India can substantially boost its exports to Russia, namely agriculture, pharmaceuticals, telecom equipment, industrial components, and skilled human resources.

The business forum was organised ahead of a crucial meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is on his first visit to India since the outbreak of the Ukraine war.

India and Russia have set a target to increase bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2030. While there has been a sharp jump in bilateral trade driven by India's oil imports, ways to reduce the trade gap is likely to feature in the Modi-Putin meeting agenda.

Meanwhile, Goyal discussed the economic engagements with Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov.

"We discussed cooperation in areas like food & agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, and more. Together, we are committed to unlocking the untapped potential and advancing the economic development of both our nations," Goyal said in a post on X, after the meeting.

# Bengaluru is Ethereum capital of India: Report

**UMA KANNAN**
BENGALURU, DHNS

A representation of cryptocurrency Bitcoin

Bengaluru, which leads in the country's Web3 native trading culture, has seen a 6.6x surge in Ethereum (ETH) volumes in 2025 so far. Developers and tech-savvy investors have made the second-largest cryptocurrency, Ethereum, the top-traded token in the city, according to the crypto exchange CoinDCX report, 'The story of crypto in India'.

The report, which was released on Thursday, revealed that nearly 40% of the country's crypto users are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities. While Bengaluru saw a 6.6x surge in ETH volumes from 35 million in 2022, to 230 million in 2025, Pune witnessed the increase at 10x (from 20 million to 183 million).

CoinDCX, which crossed 2 crore users, saw total spot trading volume at Rs 51,333 crore in FY25, and average daily trading volume stood at Rs 140.64 crore. The report highlighted that Bitcoin dominance waned from 133 million to 76 million, and ETH exploded from 39 million to 184 million.

CoinDCX co-founder Sumit Gupta said, "If you're still watching price charts, you're missing the revolution happening beneath the surface. In 2025, global institutions stepped in, regulation found its voice globally, and mainstream investors began recognising the true potential of crypto and incorporating it into their portfolios."

"India has more than 20 crore demat accounts, which reflects a strong and growing investment mindset. Now, Indians also have an opportunity and access to a global, borderless asset class operating 24x7. For a market already comfortable with financial assets, crypto represents a natural next frontier. The responsibility now lies with crypto exchanges to elevate the ecosystem through compliance, transparency, investor education, and long-term infrastructure. The opportunity is significant, but so is the obligation to build it responsibly," he added.

Also, for every one woman investor, there are six male investors, as a growing number of women from tier-2 and tier-3 markets, such as Siliguri, Imphal, and Ernakulam, are entering the digital asset market.

The report also added that the country can draw from global regulatory progress to build a stronger and more resilient digital asset ecosystem. "A unified regulatory framework could streamline oversight, reduce ambiguity and provide clarity for retail users, institutions and exchanges," it added.

### CoinSwitch releases VDA Handbook

Crypto trading platform CoinSwitch has launched Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) Decoded, the comprehensive handbook designed to help Indian law enforcement agencies, cybercrime units, and policymakers navigate the rapidly-evolving VDA ecosystem. With crypto adoption accelerating across India, police and cybercrime units are increasingly facing complex cases involving digital assets. CoinSwitch has developed the handbook to simplify VDA concepts and provide practical guidance for on-ground investigations.

CoinSwitch Co-founder and CEO Ashish Singhal said India has emerged as a global leader in grassroots-level crypto adoption, ranking first in the Global Crypto Adoption Index for the third consecutive year in 2025. With this growth comes a responsibility for service providers to safeguard consumer interests and foster a safer, more inclusive crypto ecosystem.

# AI has potential to be great equaliser: Amazon India head

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amazon on Thursday announced plans to bring AI to millions of Indians by 2030, supporting the Government of India's AI Mission to boost accessibility, productivity, and digital inclusion. The e-commerce giant has also committed to bringing AI literacy and career awareness to 4 million government-school students by 2030, and it will continue to leverage AI to make shopping easier and more immersive for hundreds of millions of customers on Amazon.in.

The company also announced that it is on track to invest $12.7 billion in local cloud and AI infrastructure and will bring the benefits of AI to over 15 million small businesses through its different businesses.

"AI has the potential to be the great equaliser in India — breaking down barriers of language, literacy, and access that have historically held people back," said Amazon India Country Manager Samir Kumar.

"When a small business owner in a tier-3 city can use AI to create professional product listings in minutes, or a student in a government school learns skills that open doors to new careers, or a customer shops in their local language without needing to type—that's when technology truly serves everyone. We're building AI infrastructure and tools at scale, because we believe every Indian deserves to benefit from this transformation, and we're proud to support the government's AI mission to make it a reality," Kumar added.

In May 2023, Amazon announced plans to invest $12.7 billion in India by 2030 into its local cloud and AI infrastructure across Telangana and Maharashtra. AWS has a number of customers in India leveraging its agentic AI capabilities across private and public sectors including DigiYatra, Apollo Tyres and Axis Bank. AWS' focus on skilling is global, and the company is building a pipeline of skilled people ready for an agentic AI future. Since 2017, AWS has trained over 6.2 million individuals in India with cloud skills through several skilling programs, such as AWS Skill Builder, AWS Educate, AWS re/Start, and recently announced new AI courses.

# Ultraviolette secures $45 m capital from Zoho, Lingotto

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** EV firm Ultraviolette on Thursday said it has secured $45 million, as part of its ongoing Series E round. The latest infusion comes from homegrown tech major Zoho Corporation, and one of Europe's largest investment management firms, Lingotto.

"This continued momentum in Ultraviolette's Series E round underscores sustained investor confidence in the company's growth trajectory and global ambitions," it stated.

With the Series E investments, Ultraviolette is doubling down on growth and expanding production. Its focus remains on advancing breakthrough battery technology, elevating performance capabilities and growing production to support upcoming product platforms, Ultraviolette CTO Niraj Rajmohan said.

# TeamLease Services gets new MD & CEO

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Board of Directors of TeamLease has appointed Suparna Mitra as the MD and CEO of TeamLease Services Limited, effective February 2, 2026. She will succeed Ashok Reddy.

The firm announced a leadership transition as part of its long-term succession planning and governance strategy. Manish Sabharwal will step down from his executive responsibilities, but continue as a non-executive non-independent director. Narayan Ramachandran will continue as Chairman.

Suparna joins TeamLease from Titan Company Ltd, where she most-recently served as CEO of the Watches & Wearables Division.

Reddy, in his new role as Executive Vice-Chairman, will work with Suparna to support her on long-term strategy, horizontal projects and building adjacencies, the company said.

# State targets $150 billion investment in electronic mfg

M B Patil

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil on Thursday directed officials to prepare a vision document aimed at boosting mobile and electronic product manufacturing and design in the State, with the goal of attracting investments of $150 billion in the future years.

Patil held discussions with a high-level delegation led by Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

Speaking after the meeting, the Minister noted that the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT had announced an electronics components manufacturing scheme in April this year. The State Government is exploring the possibility of introducing a parallel scheme and is currently studying its feasibility. "The proposal is still in the draft stage, and we welcome suggestions from ICEA," he said.

Patil added that Karnataka has significant potential not only in mobile-phone components but also in industrial and strategic electronics.

Officials have been instructed to study the Union Government's scheme along with similar policies implemented by other States.

Pankaj Mohindroo said the Union scheme prioritises sub-assemblies such as displays and camera modules, bare components, and essential manufacturing equipment. He added that the programme offers performance-linked incentives and up to 25% capital subsidy. The Centre has earmarked Rs 22,900 crore for the scheme, he said.

He further informed that, until November this year, the Union Government has cleared 17 investment proposals worth Rs 7,172 crore. These projects are expected to create 11,800 direct jobs and generate products valued at over Rs 65,000 crore.

Industries Department Principal Secretary S Selvakumar, Industries Commissioner Gunjan Krishna, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

# Rupee rises 26 paise to close at 89.89/US dollar

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The rupee rebounded from its all-time low levels and appreciated by 26 paise to close at 89.89 against the greenback on Thursday, on softness in the US dollar index and on reports of the RBI's supposed intervention.

Forex traders said the greenback fell after ADP non-farm payroll data came in sharply below forecast, and the softness in the US dollar index supported the rupee at lower levels.

The rupee opened weak earlier in the day and touched a fresh all-time low of 90.43 amid selling pressure from foreign investors and rising crude oil prices. The delay over the announcement of the India-US trade deal has also weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.36. It slipped further to a record low of 90.43 against the greenback in initial deals, registering a loss of 28 paise from its previous closing level. At the end of Thursday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 89.89, up 26 paise over its last close.

On Wednesday, the rupee breached the 90-a-dollar level for the first time to settle at a fresh all-time low of 90.15 against the greenback.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01% lower at 98.84.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.22% to $62.81 per barrel in futures trade.

# India's EV market will touch Rs 20 lakh crore by 2030, says Gadkari

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The electric vehicle market in India is projected to grow to a value of approximately Rs 20 lakh crore by 2030, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Replying to Bengaluru Central BJP MP PC Mohan, the minister said the EV industry has the potential to generate nearly five crore new jobs.

Gadkari said 57 lakh EVs have been registered in the country so far, and sales have gained significant momentum during fiscal 2024-25. He added that over 400 startups have already begun operating in the electric two-wheeler segment.

Gadkari pointed out that EV passenger car sales grew by 20.8% during the period, while petrol and diesel car sales rose 4.2%.

Sales of electric two-wheelers increased by 33%, compared with 14% growth for petrol and diesel two wheelers. Electric three-wheelers registered an 18% increase in sales, while their petrol and diesel counterparts saw a 6% rise.

### Battery prices

The price of lithium-ion batteries has dropped to $55 per kWh, and the discovery of 6 million tonnes of lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir will bring major benefits to the country, he said.

He said that when India decided to promote e-mobility, lithium-ion batteries cost $150 per kWh.

The sharp decline in battery prices, along with the lithium reserves found in India, which account for 6% of global deposits, is a positive sign.

He stated that research is underway in lithium-ion, sodium-ion, aluminium-ion and zinc-ion technologies.

Noting that India is promoting biofuels, Gadkari emphasised that hydrogen represents the fuel of the future.

PORTFOLIO PUSH

# VinFast to expand Thoothukudi facility; to produce e-buses

**ETB SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS

Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast on Thursday announced plans to expand its greenfield facility in Thoothukudi to broaden its product portfolio from electric cars to electric buses and e-scooters. The company will be allotted an additional 500 acres of land adjacent to its existing facility at the state-owned SIPCOT industrial park in the port city.

The company, which opened its manufacturing facility within 18 months of making the announcement, said it will invest $500 million to develop dedicated workshops and production lines for new product portfolios, covering manufacturing, assembly, testing and other related operations.

The said investment is part of the $2 billion commitment that the company made in January 2024 at the third Global Investors' Meet here.

On August 4, this year, VinFast rolled out its first car from the factory. It now plans to bring its suppliers to the region to foster an ecosystem.

A statement from VinFast said the state government will also provide support in securing required permits and establishing essential infrastructure connections such as electricity, water, internal road access, drainage, and waste management.

"The proposed expansion of the Tamil Nadu plant will enable us to broaden our product lineup in India, from electric cars to electric buses and e-scooters, allowing us to meet a wider range of customer needs," Pham Sanh Chau, Vingroup Asia CEO and VinFast Asia CEO, said.

He added that the company expects the initiative to create new jobs, advance localisation and strengthen the skills of the local workforce.

"VinFast believes that Tamil Nadu will continue to serve as a strategic hub in our global expansion journey and will play an important role in supporting India's green mobility goals in the years ahead," he added.

Tamil Nadu Industries Minister TRB Rajaa said VinFast's expansion plans will generate additional momentum for the green transportation strategy of both Tamil Nadu and India.

"The state government is committed to working closely with VinFast and ensuring favourable conditions throughout the implementation process to deliver lasting benefits for the community and the regional economy by ensuring that Vingroup thrives in Tamil Nadu and their flourishing ecosystem provides jobs for the state," he added.

VinFast's entry in January 2024, building its first Indian unit from scratch in 18 months, accelerated Thoothukudi's industrial rejuvenation, drawing more investors to pick the 'Pearl City' as their destination. The investment climate in the port city took a huge beating after protests by locals forced the shutdown of Vedanta's Sterlite Copper plant in 2018.

It was VinFast's decision in January 2024 to choose Thoothukudi for its first India plant — the manufacturing unit was built from the scratch in a record 18 months — did accelerate the investment push in the city with many firms following suit.

## Golden Dancer wins feature

**MUMBAI RESULTS**

Golden Dancer, from the stables of Dallas Todywalla and ridden by Sandesh, won the KM Munshi Cup, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Thursday.

**1. Fair Flight Plate - 1400M:** Cornerstone (Jaydev Mody) Aditya Waydande 1; Alexandria (Zervan) 2; Baleno (Bhawani Singh) 3; Whatsinaname (Nazil) 4; Wb: 2, 2-3/4, 2-1/2L. T: 1:23.98. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: Alexandria.

**2. Aristos Plate -2000M:** Harrison (Jaydev Mody) TS Jodha 1; Miracle Of Hanukah (Trevor Patel) 2; Little John (Sandesh) 3; Chicago Chimes (NS Parmar) 4; Wb: 4-3/4, 1-1/2, 5-1/2L.. T: 2-02.35. TB: Behram Cama. Fav: Miracle Of Hanukah.

**3. Bejan Bharucha Plate - 1000M:** Adonis (Kumar A Raste) Bhawani Singh 1; Impuslive (SA Amit) 2; Between Friends (P Dhebe) 3; Untitled (Ramswarup) 4; Wb: 1/2, Lnk, 1-1/4L. 0:59.53. TB: Vijay Kasbekar. Fav: Adonis.

**4. KM Munshi Cup - 1800M:** Golden Dancer (Mukul Sonawala) Sandesh 1; Tiepolo (Trevor Patel) 2; Exuma (NS Parmar) 3; Not Run: Land Of Plenty. Wb: Lnk, 12-1/4L. T: 1:51.64. TB: Dallas Todywalla. Fav: Golden Dancer.

**5. Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy (VI BART) Trophy - 1000M:** Jaamdar (Vijay B Shirke) Trevor Patel 1; phantom Strike (Ajinkya) 2; Mother's Gift (SG Prasad) 3; Victory Flair (Nazil) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, 1L, Shd. T: 0:58.47. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Lucky Diamond.

**6. Dr. Jagjit Singh Trophy - 1200M:** Storm Cloud (Dhananjay Vidhate) Avinash Paswan 1; Applause (Bharat Singh) 2; Escape Velocity (G Santosh) 3; Silver Strike(Aditya Waydande) 4; Not Run: AR First Star. Wb: 2-3/4, Shd, 2-1/2L. T: 1:10.83. TB: Narendra Lagad. Fav: Silver Strike.

**7. Rajasthan Royals Plate - 1600M:** Pristine Glory (Aryama Sundaram) C.S. Jodha 1; All For Love (Yash Narredu) 2; Allez L Etoile (Mustakim Alam) 3; Royal Champ (Pranil) 4; Wb: 1, 3/4, 2-1/2L. T: 1-37.19. TB: Karthik Ganapathy. Fav: Merchant Of Venice.

**Bengaluru dividends:**
**I race:** Rs 86w; 34, 14p; Fc: Rs 284; Q: Rs 92; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 544 & 216; Ex: Rs 1,508 & 705.
**II race:** Rs 55w; 33, 11, 13p; Fc: Rs 201; Q: Rs 109; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 479 & 302; Ex: Rs 2,755 & 2,755.
**III race:** Rs 18w; 10, 31, 16p; Fc: Rs 116; Q: Rs 97; Shp: Rs 96; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 1,614 & 505; Ex: Rs 5,662 & 2,426.
**IV race:** Rs 10w; Fc: Rs 12; Shp: Rs 14;
**V race:** Rs 51w; 14, 14, 19p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 98; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 1,749 & 865; Ex: Rs 8,573 & 3,674 .
**VI race:** Rs 49w; 15, 26, 34p; Fc: Rs 531; Q: Rs 496; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 3,629 & 2,074; Ex: Rs 3,742 & 1,390. 53,390 (c/o).
**VII race:** Rs 35w; 13, 15, 14p; Fc: Rs 150; Q: Rs 69; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 633 & 206; Ex: Rs 2,522 & 1,544. .
**Jackpot:** Rs 5,607 (77). **Runner-up:** Rs 407 (455). **Treble:** Rs 443 (136).

### IN BRIEF

## Open National schools' meet

Amruthaya Central School, Kattigenahalli, will be conducting the 6th Open National Inter-School Championship for volleyball, yoga, chess, taekwondo and badminton on Dec 6 and 7, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

For further details, contact: Dr Prikshith Chibber (9986124865).

## Thanush, Anisha advance

Karnataka's top seeds Thanush Shekar and Anisha Cornelio entered the boys' and girls' singles semifinals respectively of the AITA U-12 National Series tennis tournament in Bengaluru on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Thanush defeated seventh seed Aadvik Khanna of Maharasthra 6-1, 6-4, while on the other hand, the second seed Riaan Nandakumar of Gujarat also entered the semifinals beating fifth seed Aariv Gupta of Uttar Pradesh 7-5, 7-5.

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**Ashes 2nd Test:** Australia vs England **(Day 2, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** and **JioHotstar**.

**1st Test:** New Zealand vs West Indies **(Day 4, 3:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

**FOOTBALL**

**FIFA World Cup 2026 draw (10:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FIFA+**.

**HOCKEY**

**Women's Jr World Cup:** Belgium vs Argentina **(4:45 am)**, Ireland vs India **(5:30 pm)**, Germany vs Namibia **(7:45 pm)**, New Zealand vs Korea **(10:00 pm)**, Netherlands vs Malaysia **(12:15 am, Friday)**, United States vs Uruguay **(2:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

**Men's Jr World Cup quarterfinals:** Spain vs New Zealand **(12:30 pm)**, France vs Germany **(3:00 pm)**, Netherlands vs Argentina **(5:30 pm)**, India vs Belgium **(8:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1** and **JioHotstar**.

**FORMULA 1**

**Abu Dhabi GP:** Practice 1 **(3:00 pm)**, Practice 2 **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

HORSE RACING

# Positive results for glanders puts racing in jeopardy

**Five horses in BTC suspected to be infected with the dangerous disease**

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Winter Season at the Bangalore Turf Club faces cancellation after five horses reportedly tested positive for the highly contagious glanders disease, an outbreak that has already paralysed racing in Hyderabad and Chennai.

After the deadly zoonotic disease first surfaced in Hyderabad about a month ago that has claimed the lives of 15 horses, it instantly had officials here in Bengaluru worried. And those fears came true when some horses started showing symptoms like fever and cough about a week ago.

Samples of horses with symptoms and many others were immediately sent to the Government Veterinary Hospital in Hebbal for testing. The results, sources confirmed, of the five horses returned positive for glanders. The hospital recommended sending the B samples to the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), a premier institute for equine health in Hisar, Haryana. NRCE is the only laboratory in South Asia designated to investigate glanders disease and it's mandatory to send such samples for confirmation, according to Central Government rules.

The B samples will be dispatched to NRCE on Friday and the results could be out in a couple of days. According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), glanders is an infectious and life-threatening disease that mainly affects horses, donkeys or mules caused by the bacterium Burkholderia mallei. Glanders can be transmitted to humans who live in close contact with the infected animals.

BTC chairman L Shivashankar refused to confirm or deny the 'positive' tests, saying the club will wait for NRCE's reports – the final authority on the issue. "We are seeking a second opinion. The samples will be sent to NRCE. Once the results come out, we will do everything as per government protocols," Shivashankar told *DH*.

Sources familiar with these issues, however, claimed the Veterinary Hospital's observations hardly go wrong and NRCE's confirmation could put racing this season in serious jeopardy.

"The horses that are infected come from the stables of the breeder whose horses were down with glanders in Hyderabad. He's a very reputed breeder and it's sad to see it go this way," said the source.

"Judging by the symptoms and from where the horses come from, it'll be a miracle if NRCE finds those samples negative. Mind you, even one positive test means the entire stable has to be put under lockdown. So it's really bad news for BTC which, like many other racing clubs across the country, is going through a turbulent time economically."

According to an official, who chose to remain anonymous, wriggling out of a glanders outbreak would be an exhaustive process for the club. Once a horse tests positive, the entire facility goes under lockdown. Samples of all horses have to be sent to NRCE every 21 days and no horse should test positive for three successive testing cycles for racing to get a green signal. But even if one tests positive, the whole process starts all over again.

BTC, one of the premier racing centres in the country, is home to around 750 horses. Results of each sample take 48-72 hours to arrive, so just imagine about 750 of them. Plus add the ongoing crisis in Hyderabad and Chennai. All this means, the Winter Season may see a pre-mature end. Apart from missing out on racing here, horses won't be able to travel, leaving them out of bounds for the Indian Derby in February as well the Invitation Cup weekend in March.

It has also been learnt that two horses in Mysuru have also tested positive for Glanders.

The Winter Season at the Bangalore Turf Club could potentially be cancelled after five horses reportedly tested positive for the highly contagious Glanders disease. DH FILE PHOTO

### POTENT BLOW

**What is glanders?**
According to World Organisation for Animal Health, glanders is an infectious and life-threatening disease that mainly affects horses, donkeys or mules caused by the bacterium Burkholderia mallei. The disease causes nodules and ulcerations in the respiratory tract and lungs in animals. A skin form, known as 'farcy', also occurs.

**Is it fatal?**
A cure is possible if cases are treated rapidly with antibiotics. Fatality rates for untreated infections are very high.

**How does it spread?**
The most common source of infection is ingestion of contaminated food or water. Contaminated aerosols (produced by coughing and sneezing), and contaminated fomites brought to the animals via grooming equipment and tack may also be a source of infection.

**Can glanders be transmitted to humans?**
Yes, glanders, which is a life-threatening zoonosis for which no vaccines exist, can be transmitted to humans. It is a rare disease in humans with cases having occurred in veterinarians, other people working closely with horses, and laboratory workers.

## Charvi second youngest girl to cross 2300 Elo rating

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru chess prodigy Charvi Anilkumar created history by becoming the second youngest girl to breach the 2300 Elo rating.

Charvi Anilkumar

The 11-year-old is only behind the legendary Hungarian chess star Judith Polgar, who accomplished the feat at a younger age en route to her FM title.

Renowned coach RB Ramesh highlighted the youngster's feat while congratulating her in a post on X (formerly twitter).

"Hearty congratulations to 11year old Charvi Anilkumar for crossing 2300 FIDE elo! Second youngest girl in the World to do so after the legendary Judit Polgar."

Charvi, a recipient of the the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this January, also regained her top spot for under-11 girls in the world, pipping Alanna Berikkyzy of Kazakhstan. Charvi is already the No. 1 in her age-group in India across genders.

## Sarwagya turns youngest FIDE-rated player

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** At an age when three-year-olds might not be able to tell the difference between a rook and a bishop, young Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha from Madhya Pradesh has achieved a unique distinction of becoming the youngest FIDE Rapid Rated player in the world.

At just three years, seven months and 13 days Sarwagya, who hails from Sagar in the north-central region of Madhya Pradesh, has a Rapid Rating of 1572 in the international chess federation's (FIDE) December rating list.

Sarwagya, whose journey into the sport began when his parents introduced him to chess to reduce his screen time, competed in his first Rapid Rating tournament -- the 24th RCC Rapid Rated Cup in Mangaluru -- in September where he beat a 1542-rated player.

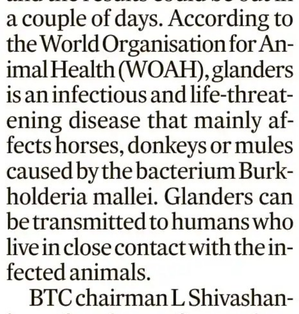
# Table-toppers Arsenal stay in command

LONDON, AFP

Arsenal edged out Brentford 2-0 to restore their five-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday as Chelsea slumped to a 3-1 defeat at struggling Leeds.

Liverpool needed a late Nordi Mukiele own-goal to avoid another damaging defeat at home in a 1-1 draw with Sunderland, while Aston Villa climbed up to third after a 4-3 victory at Brighton.

Arsenal failed to hit top form at the Emirates Stadium but did enough to take another step towards a first league title in 22 years, thanks to goals from Mikel Merino and Bukayo Saka.



Mikel Merino. AFP

Leeds boss Daniel Farke's job was reportedly on the line prior to Chelsea's visit to Elland Road after four consecutive defeats. But Farke's players produced a huge performance for their boss to climb out of the relegation zone.

Jaka Bijol powered in Anton Stach's corner to give the hosts the perfect start.

Roared on by a vociferous home crowd, Leeds were rewarded for a dominant first 45 minutes when Ao Tanaka blasted in from the edge of the box.

Pedro Neto pulled a goal back for the Blues early in the second half, but Chelsea gifted Leeds a third and a vital win when Tosin Adarabioyo was caught on the ball inside his own box and Dominic Calvert-Lewin slotted home.

A late equaliser did little to lift the gloom around Anfield as Liverpool sit eighth.

**Results:** Arsenal: 2 (Merino 11th, Saka 90+1) bt Brentford: 0; Brighton: 3 (Van Hecke 9th, 83rd, Torres 29 og) lt to Aston Villa: 4 (Watkins 37th, 45+7, Onana 60th, Malen 78th); Burnley: 0 lt to Crystal Palace: 1 (Munoz 44th); Leeds: 3 (Bijol 6th, Tanaka 43rd, Calvert-Lewin 72nd) bt Chelsea: 1 (Neto 50th); Liverpool: 1 (Mukiele 81 og) drew with Sunderland: 1 (Talbi 67th); Wolves: 0 lt to Nottingham Forest: 1 (Jesus 72nd).

## Real cruise on Mbappe brilliance

**BILBAO (SPAIN), AFP:** Kylian Mbappe scored twice and set up another as Real Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 to cut Barcelona's La Liga lead back down to one point on Wednesday.

Xabi Alonso's side curtailed a run of three consecutive league draws away from home with one of their best displays of the season at Athletic's San Mames.

Mbappe opened the scoring early on as Trent Alexander-Arnold provided his first La Liga assist, with Eduardo Camavinga nodding in the second before the break.

French superstar Mbappe slammed home another in the second half for his 16th league goal of the season to seal Madrid's victory.

"I think the team played a complete game today, concentrating for the whole 90 minutes... it was probably the best match we've had, at a difficult place to go, at a big moment, and we took it on calmly and now we must continue," Alonso told reporters.

**Result:** Athletic Bilbao: 0 lt to Real Madrid: 3 (Mbappe 7th, 59th, Camavinga 42nd)

England's Joe Root (left) scored his first Test ton in Australia, while Mitchell Starc picked up a brilliant 6/71 on the opening day of the second Ashes Test in Brisbane. AFP PHOTOS

# Root ends century duck in Aus; Starc overtakes Akram

BRISBANE, AFP

Joe Root finally scored his maiden Test century in Australia on his fourth Ashes tour to guide England from a precarious 5/2 to 325/9 at stumps after a pulsating first day of the second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Thursday.

Mitchell Starc became the most successful left-arm fast bowler in history as he claimed 6-71, but the opening sessions of the day-night contest were dominated by Root, who scored a masterful 135 not out.

No. 11 Jofra Archer thrilled the travelling army of fans as he smashed a career-best unbeaten 32 off 26 balls with two sixes to provide some late fireworks.

His unbroken 10th-wicket partnership of 61 with Root was a record for England at the Gabba. The world's top-ranked batter, Root had failed to reach triple figures on three previous Ashes tours.

But the man who is second on the all-time run-scoring list behind only Sachin Tendulkar silenced the critics who said he couldn't be considered a true batting great until he had made a century in Australia.

Coming to the crease in the third over at 5/2 with Starc swinging the new pink ball, he embarked on an epic knock, bringing up his century with a leg glance to the fine leg boundary off Scott Boland.

Starc's six wickets moved him to 418 in Tests, surpassing Pakistan great Wasim Akram's 414 as the most prolific left-arm paceman in Test history.

"Wasim's still the pinnacle, I think he's still better than me," said Starc.

Starc again was the destroyer at the top of the order, removing Ben Duckett in his first over and Ollie Pope in his second to reduce a shell-shocked England to 5/2.

But unlike in the first Test defeat in Perth, England showed some grit with a 117-run partnership between Root and Zak Crawley, who made 76.

**Brief scores:** England: 325/9 in 74 overs (Zak Crawley 76, Joe Root 135 n.o., Harry Brook 31, Jofra Archer 32 n.o.; Mitchell Starc 6-71) vs Australia.

### ELITE CLUB

- Mitchell Starc: 418*
- Wasim Akram: 414
- Chaminda Vaas: 355
- Trent Boult: 317
- Mitchell Johnson: 313

## Ankush, Shashidhar headline Friends Union Cricketers' win

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Ankush Bopanna scored a half century, while teammate Shashidhar HS returned with an economical four-for as Friends Union Cricketers, KGF beat Citizen Cultural Cricket Association by 17 runs in the KSCA Group I - IV Division league-cum-knockout tournament for Metro Shield here.

Batting first and riding on Ankush's 94-ball 78, Friends Union Cricketers posted 213 for the loss of nine wickets in 50 overs.

Rushiketh HD was the pick of the bowlers for CCCA, picking 3/51.

Chasing 214 for victory, Shashidhar (4/31) broke the batting backbone as Citizen Cultural Cricket Association were shot out for 196.

**Brief scores:** Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 213/9 in 50 overs (Ankush Bopanna 78, Shashidhar HS 27; Rushiketh HD 3-51) bt Citizen Cultural Cricket Association: 196 all out in 46.3 overs (Vishnu Prasad G 44, Bhima Shankar 30; Shashidhar HS 4/31, Rajesh M 2-40, Udaya Shankar D 2-30).
Gandhinagar Cricketers: 164 all out in 44.3 overs (Asif Basha S 33, Himanshu Rajput 25; Vivek Seervi 3-30, SK Abdul Shyamrid 2-28, Palash Ajay Kanoje 4-31) lt to Friends XI Cricket Club, Doddaballapura: 165/6 in 38.3 overs (SK Abdul Shyamrid 39, Nirmal S 25 n.o., Abhishek Rana Ramakant Singh 2-31, Dhanush TR 3-46).
Kapali Cricket Club: 293/8 in 50 overs (Pranav Raj 49, Aryan Praveen Kumar 64, S Sufiyan 63, Madankumar Chitragara 77; Tarun Manohar 3-58, Nagendra K 2-70) bt Bangalore Indian Cricket Club: 205 all out in 42.3 overs (Ameet Yadav 28,
Dipten Bhattacharya 66, Sanjay Raja 52, Vishal Reddy SV 2-14, Rohith Koya 2-45).
Blue Diamond Cricketers : 210 all out in 49.5 overs (Abhishek AS 40, Sunil S Kumar 58, Madan Mohan Krishna 29; Arjun Shashidhar 3-39, Praveen Singh R 3-55, Pavan Prasad V 2-26, Jayanth Gowda S 2-20) bt Chamarajpet Cricket Club: 164 all out in 41.4 overs (M Jayan Samyog 78, Harshith S 31; Shoheb Pasha 3-20, Madan Mohan Krishna 4-37).
Spartons Sports Club: 227 all out in 44.2 overs (Ayush Shetty 44, Desmond Antony 36, Rohith Gowda 50, R Chandrasekaran 5-32, Shashwat Yadav 2-20, Neelrattan B 2-36) bt Lions Cricket Club: 162 all out in 45 overs (Vinod Kumar M 28, Neelrattan
B 70, Aditya Singh 2-36, Nithin Naidu 2-29, Ashok D 2-39, Sanjay R 2-21).
Maharana Cricket Club: 161 all out in 45.2 overs (Supreeth Kumar 28, Khrithiz Patnaik 42; Rakshith L 4-25, Prathap 2-28, Pranav M 3-13) bt Malleswaram United Cricket Club : 99 all out in 29.5 overs (Rakshith L 36 n.o., Sriee Krish RA 4-20, Kataru Nagarjuna Reddy 4-29).
Standard Cricket Club: 188 all out in 47.3 overs (Aden Mark D Souza 55, Mayur Tekwani 43; Dominic Fernandes 3-32, MK Hemesh 2-22, Shameek Kolambkar 2-24, Angadraj Sangam Hittalamani 3-38) lt to Sapphire Cricket Club: 192/4 in 34.2 overs (Ravikumar M 31, Angadraj Sangam Hittalamani 36, Nitin Bhille 65 n.o., Thrivarna Sagar 36 n.o.).
Eleven Brother's Cricket Club, Magadi: 212 all out in 47.4 overs (Akshath Kombettu 87, Balu Dilip Kumara 3-31, Shiva Guru Rakshith MG 2-24, Rishab Krish 2-31, Yuvraj R 2-14)
lt to Friends Cricket Team: 216/5 in 46.2 overs (Vijaykumar Patil 36, Rishab Krish 38, Yuvraj R 70 n.o., Monith Narayan KL 31 n.o., Anush Mehta Jain 2-41).
Jayanagar Colts: 111 all out in 47 overs (Naveen 39; Lohith R 4-15, Chinky Jain 3-25, Benedict Raj Badiger 2-16) lt to Vikram Circket Club: 116/8 in 31.3 overs (Suresh Karani 2-17, Punit R Basava 4-35, Medhas Mukund 2-36).
Hanumanthnagar Cricket Club: 126 all out in 39 overs (Koushik AN 3-22, Shivam Rathod 2-20, Deepak Gowda 4-25) lt to Sparklers Cricket Club: 129/5 in 29 overs (Deepak Gowda 43, Mudassir 28, Krishna 3-30).
Young Challenging Cricketers: 154 all out in 43 overs (Anubhav Chatterjee 27, Jayesh Babu 27, Ashmit Shetty 42 n.o.; Harsha KS 2-20, Rohan M Raju 2-23, Kiran Kumar P 3-33) ;t to Wadiyar Cricket Club: 155/4 in 33.2 overs (GR Mrunal 31, Abhiram V
50 n.o.).

**BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY**
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
e-Mail: **bnuregevl@karnataka.gov.in**
Website: **www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Dated: 02.12.2025

**E-Tender Notification**

The Registrar(Evl), Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from: **02.12.2025**

**1.** Printing and Supply of Main Answer Booklets to Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, kolar - Tender no: **BNU/2025-26/IND0058.**

**Sd/- REGISTRAR (Evl)**
**Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar**
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No.383/KSMCA/2025-26

**Government of Karnataka**
**Zilla Panchayat, Bellary**
**Office of the District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Near Joladarashi Doddanagouda Rangamandara, D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan, Bellary District, Bellary.**
**E-Mail:dobcmbellery@gmail.com Phone No:08392-275751**
**No.BCWD/BLY/OUTSOURCESSERVICE/CR-01/2025-26 Dated:02-12-2025.**

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bellary has invited E-Tender throuth e-Procurement Portal for the 2025-26 financial year for supplying outsource employees to pre-matric and post-matric hostels, Taluk and District Backward Classes Welfare Department offices details as follows
1.Tender Reference No and date: **No.BCWD/BLY/OUTSOURCESSERVICE/CR-01/2025-26 02-12-2025.** 2.Tender Notification Date: **02-12-2025.** 3.Commencement of download of E-tender Form from website: **02-12-2025.** 4.Amount put to Tender Amount and EMD Amount. **District:** Ballari **Tender Amount (Rs.in Lakhs):** 478.37. **EMD Amount (in Rupees):** 7,18,000. 5.Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **17-12-2025 5.00 P.M.** 6.Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **18-12-2025 5.10 P.M.** 7.Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid.: **Technically qualified organizations will be notified.** 9.Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication: **District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, D.DEVARAJ URS BHAVAN NEAR JOLADHARASHI DODDANAGOWDA RANGAMANDIRA, BALLARI. Phone No.08392-275751**
Interested eligible Registered in e-procurement portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

**Sd/- District Officer, Backward Clasess Welfare Department Ballari Dist, Ballari.**
**DIPR/Ballari/741/KSMCA/2025-26**

(From left) Abhinav K Murthy, Sahana H Murthy and Aarnav N pose with their spoils after winning the Dr MS Ramaiah memorial Karnataka State-ranking tournament titles in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

## Sahana, Abhinav reign supreme

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Sahana H Murthy and Abhinav K Murthy clinched the top honours in the women's and men's singles events respectively at the Dr MS Ramaiah memorial Karnataka State-ranking tournament, showing their composure in competitive marquee clashes.

**Results: Final:Men's singles:** Abhinav K Murthy bt Atharva Nawarange 13-11, 11-7, 11-6, 5-11, 11-6. **U-19:** Aarnav N bt BR Gaurav 11-7, 11-5, 11-9, 10-12, 11-5.

**Women's singles:** Sahana H Murthy bt Himanshi Chowdhary 8-11, 11-6, 9-11, 10-12, 11-3, 11- 6, 11-7. **U-19:** Himanshi Chowdhary bt Hiya Singh 11-9, 13-15, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8.

## Andhra tailenders deny Karnataka victory

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Dhyaan Hiremath's 6/47 went in vain as Karnataka were denied a victory by fighting Andhra tailenders Siddu Karthik Reddy (50 not out) and N Rajesh (41) on the final day of their elite group match of the BCCI Cooch Behar Trophy in Ananthapur on Thursday.

Resuming at 36/2, and a lead of 23 runs, Andhra top-order collapsed to an 87/8 with Dhyaan completing his six-wicket haul. However, skipper Rajesh and Siddu then stitched a patient 81-run stand for the 10th wicket to frustrate the visitors.

Andhra eventually declared their innings at 179/9, with Siddu reaching his half-century in 142 deliveries.

With 15 overs left in the match to chase a target of 203, Karnataka openers, Dhruv Krishnan (20 n.o.) and Aadesh Urs (16 n.o.) finished the proceedings at 36/0.

Karnataka (13 points in three matches), who collected just a point from the match, dropped to second spot with the draw, while Maharashtra (16) moved ahead after beating visitors Himachal Pradesh in Solapur.

**Brief scores:** AP: 415 all out & (O/n: 36/2) 179/9 in 83 overs (Anand Josiah 40, Siddu Karthik Reddy 50 n.o., N Rajesh 41; Rathan BR 2-62, Dhyaan Hiremath 6-47) vs Karnataka: 392 all out in 148.1 overs & 36/0 in 15 overs.

## Allen hat-trick in PCFC win

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Allen Sanjay Xavier scored a hat-trick as Pillanna Garden FC completed a come-from-behind 4-1 victory over Bangalore Warriors FC in the BDFA B Division, Group A League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

A Praveen R own goal broke the deadlock in the 17th minute to put BWFC 1-0 ahead. However, Allen found an equaliser in the 38th minute to make it 1-1 and open the floodgates. He, then, doubled his and PCFC's tally in the 49th to make it 2-1.

Gasper Anthony added a third at the stroke of the hour mark, while Allen capped off a brilliant game, completing his hat-trick in the 72nd minute.

In Group B, Finto's hat-trick helped Shooterz FC beat KSP FC 4-0.

**Results: B Division, Group A:** Pillanna Garden FC: 4 (Allen Sanjay Xavier 38th pen, 49th, 72nd, Gasper Anthony 60th) bt Bangalore Warriors FC: 1 (Praveen R 17th own goal). **Group B:** William FC: 1 (Zabiulla S) bt Bangalore Gunners FC: 0; Shooterz FC: 4 (Finto 30th, 76th, 80th+1, Raju G 41st) bt KSP FC: 0.

HOCKEY MEN'S JUNIOR WORLD CUP

# After a stroll, India face first big hurdle

### Sreejesh's wards take on Belgium in quarters

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Faced with minimal resistance, world No. 2 India coasted past their three opponents in the pool stage to enter the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup here with their results reading -- a 7-0 win against Chile, a 17-0 drubbing of Oman and a 5-0 triumph over Switzerland.

These victories were expected, and the focus was always on the manner they would achieve them. The three Pool B matches, a sort of rehearsals before the curtains go up for the knockout show, displayed their game acumen while exposing the cracks. Come Friday, India would look to ride the positives when the Rohit Yadav-led colts take on a formidable Belgium in a last-eight encounter.

Coach P R Sreejesh's team scored a total of 29 goals and conceded none. This reflects the attacking mindset imbibed by the field players and the manning prowess of the two goalkeepers. While the number of goal openings created is looked at as an encouraging sign, finishing touches deserting the team on multiple occasions, specifically the low penalty corner conversion rate, is being seen as India's Achilles heel.

Such blemishes in easy victories against lower-ranked teams can, at most times, be brushed aside. But with tougher opponents, beginning with world No. 7 Belgium – in hunt for the trophy with similar hunger – every little mistake could prove to be expensive.

In the absence of dragflick specialist and forward Araijeet Singh Hundal, striker Dilraj Singh (6 goals) and midfielder Manmeet Singh (5) stepped in to take responsibility and turned out to be India's top goal-getters among eight others who have also scored so far. The midfield has looked tight while the defence has been found vulnerable at moments.

The two-time Olympic bronze medal-winning former custodian Sreejesh is aware of it all. Positioning himself on a higher ground away from the Indian dugout during the games, the 37-year-old head coach would have passed on his observations loud and clear in the two-day break after India's last pool game.

Though Belgium, captained by 19-year-old Lucas Balthazar, qualified for the quarterfinal as one of the two second best-placed teams (the other being New Zealand) from the group stage, the European side are a team equipped with enough aggression, fast feet and tactical nuance to trouble the Indians. However, set pieces have been their issue too. Comfortable wins against Egypt (10-0) and Namibia (12-1) and a loss against world No. 4 Spain (0-2), saw Belgium finish as the Pool D runners-up.

At the business end of big tournaments with the world's best, there is always little to separate in the skillsets and fitness of rival players. The ability of a team to maintain intensity, the ones with better split second decision-making and calmer nerves when under pressure often prove to be the difference between winning and losing.

Instructions from Sreejesh will be to face such a challenge head on. How well, then, would the boys hold their ground in front of an enthusiastic home crowd?

**QUARTERFINALS**

- Spain vs New Zealand (12:30 pm)
- France vs Germany (3 pm)
- Netherlands vs Argentina (5:30 pm)
- India vs Belgium (8 pm)
- LIVE Star Sports Select 1 and JioHotstar.

India, after three facile wins in the group stage, face a tricky quarterfinal challenge against Belgium in Chennai on Friday. PTI

### Australia edge past Japan

**Ian Grobbelaar's lone goal through a penalty corner saw Australia edge past a resilient Japan in a 9-16th classification match of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Mayor Radhakrishna Hockey Stadium in Chennai on Thursday, reports DHNS.**

**Results: Classification round (9-16 placing):** England: 3 (Kaden Draysey 13th, Max Anderson 19th, Jonny Sturch-Hibbitt 27th) bt Chile: 1 (Javier Vargas 23rd); South Africa: 3 (Jaydon Brooker 18th, 39th, Ross Montgomery 58th) bt Malaysia: 1 (Aqil Mat 48th); Ireland: 5 (Samuel Dale 25th, Gregory Williams 36th, 38th, James Clarke 39th, Louis Rowe 60th) bt Switzerland: 2 (Louis Thijs 30th, Jens Fluck 50th); Australia: 1 (Ian Grobbelaar 56th) bt Japan: 0.

# Karnataka title challenge ends with Delhi defeat

### Padikkal, Smaran fifties fall short in mammoth chase

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karantaka's campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy ended in the group stage with their defeat to Delhi by 45 runs in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

For Delhi, it was a statement victory after a shock defeat to Tripura in the game before as the IPL star-filled batting line-up put up a mammoth 232/3 in 20 overs after opting to bat first. In response, Karnataka were all out for 187 in 19.3 overs.

Karnataka (eight points in five games) dropped to fourth spot in the seven-team Group B with the loss while Delhi (12 in five) moved to third to remain in contention for the quarterfinals. However, unbeaten Jharkhand and Rajasthan (20 from 5) are the favourites to go through to the next stage.

Getting back to the match, young southpaw Priyansh Arya laid the foundation for the big total with a rapid 33-ball 62 (2 fours and six sixes). Rest of the Delhi top-order -- Aush Badoni (53 runs off 35 balls), Tejasvi Dahiya (53 not out off 19) and Nitish Rana (46 n.o. off 28) -- continued the hammering to take their side to huge total.

Left-arm off-spinner Subhang Hegde (2/31) was the only Karnataka bowler who stood out while the likes of V Vyshak (0/61) and Shreyas Gopal (0/31) conceded runs at an economy of 15 plus.

Chasing the total, Devdutt Padikkal (62 off 38) and Smaran R (72 off 38) forged a fighting partnership of 76 runs for the fourth wicket after top-order stars Mayank Agarwal (9) and Karun Nair (2) failed to click on the day.

While veteran India pacer Ishant Sharma (2/36) picked the big scalps, Badoni ran through the rest of the middle-order and tail with a spell of 4/12.

Ayush Badoni scored a quick half-century followed by a 4/12 spell to seal the win for Delhi in Ahmedabad. PTI

**Group D brief scores:** Delhi: 232/3 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 62, Ayush Badoni 53, Nitish Rana 46 n.o., Tejasvi Dahiya 53 n.o.; Shubhang Hegde 2-31) bt Karnataka: 187 all out in 19.3 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 62, Smaran R 72; Ishant Sharma 2-36, Prince Yadav 2-27, Digvesh Rathi 2-30, Ayush Badoni 4-12).

Uttarakhand: 150/7 in 20 overs (Kunal Chandela 55, Avneesh Sudha 32, Suchith J 29 n.o.; Sushant Mishra 2-28, Anukul Roy 3-20) lt to Jharkhand: 152/3 in 16.1 overs (Utkarsh Singh 41, Kumar Kushagra 41, Virat Singh 43 n.o.; Avneesh Sudha 2-28).

Saurashtra: 145 all out in 19.3 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 69; Ashok Sharma 4-20, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 2-20, Rahul Chahar 2-39) lt to Rajasthan: 146/8 in 19.5 overs (Kunal Singh Rathore 27, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 37 n.o.; Chetan Sakariya 2-41, Parth Bhut 3-9)

Tamil Nadu: 204/5 in 20 overs (N Jagadeesan 83, Sai Kishore 87 n.o.; Saurabh Das 2-24) bt Tripura: 143 all out in 18.3 overs (Vijay Shankar 39, Manisankar Murasingh 33; Gurjapneet Singh 2-22, T Natarajan 2-22, Sonu Yadav 2-32).

# Limaye grabs historic gold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ashish Limaye won India's first-ever individual gold in eventing at the Asian Equestrian Championships in Pattaya, Thailand, riding his horse Willy Be Dun to a total score of 29.4. India also had their best-ever campaign at the event as they finished with five medals.

The Embassy International Riding School rider became the first Indian to claim an individual continental gold since the 1982 Asian Games. The Indian team of Limaye, Shashank Kanumuri and Shashank Kataria also secured the silver medal with a combined score of 121.8, finishing behind Thailand (117.6).

Speaking after the win, Limaye said: "It has been a long journey, but today it all seems worth it... Today, this feels like a redemption. It takes a village to get here... and on top of the list is my horse Willy Be Dun!"

In Dressage, Shruti Vora bagged three silver medals, namely in individual, intermediate freestyle I, and dressage team event. The rest of her team members in the event were Divyakriti Singh and Gaurav Pundir.

Ashish Limaye, astride Willy Be Dun, won India's first individual gold medal at the Asian Equestrian Championships in Pattaya. FEI

## Adarsh shines with century in YFA SC's triumph

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Adarsh V Hiremath cracked a 134-ball 147 to star in YFA Sports Club's 60-run win over Dolphin Cricketers in a rain-affected KSCA Group I - IV Division league-cum-knockout tournament for Metro Shield here.

His knock took YFA to 257/9 in 50 overs.

**Brief scores:** YFA Sports Club: 257/9 in 50 overs (Adarsh V Hiremath 147, Gangaram 34, Sarveet Dubey 37 n.o.; Avaneesh Poonacha 3-29, Rajeev Bhaskar 2-56, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 2-63) bt Dolphin Cricketers: 186 all out in 41.3 overs (Sai Akhilesh B 30, Rohan BC 56; Shiva Kumar D 3-32, Sarveet Dubey 2-48). Match was interrupted by rain, target revised to 247 in 40 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

Young Pioneer Cricket Club: 57 all out in 16.4 overs (Om Agarwalla 2-16, Preetham Raj K 3-16, Yathin Kumar M 2-11) lt to Elite Blues Cricket Club: 61/1 in 10.1 overs (Nirmal Tejaswi S 40 n.o.).

Zodiac Cricket Club: 156 all out in 37 overs (Pavan Yadav M 38; Gautham R Reddy 2-34, Abdul Bari 3-19, Vasanth Kumar S 3-30) lt to Crescent Cricket Club (1): 153/3 in 21.5 overs (Rubesh Babu 33, Nagesh D Nayaka 49 n.o.; Keerthan J R 2-23). Match was interrupted by rain, target revised to 152 in 35 overs.

City Cricketers (1): 216 all out in 44.4 overs (Vinay BC 88; Shashank SJ 5-42, Milan Dhami 2-29) bt Merchants Cricket Club (2): 172 all out in 42 overs (Omkar Patil 40, Shashank SJ 39, Himanth Raj BR 3-17, Thejas L 2-24, Chethan CV 3-39).

Jaidur Cricketers: 168 all out in 37.5 overs (Jibin John 42, Vinay Kumar K 29, Sanju BT 46; Zahoor Faroqui 5-24, R Venkatesh 2-45, Sumeet P Deshpande 2-38) lt to Southern Cricketers: 170/4 in 30.3 overs (R Praveen Kumar 77, Abhishek M 39; Darshan GK 2-37).

Silky Town Cricket Club: 172 all out in 43.5 overs (Sha Mudassir Uddin 26, Yogendra Gowda V 27, Mohammed Kashif A 49; Arnav Ravindra Dere 2-20, Pranav Kumar A 3-23, Jayanth N 2-40, Hemanth M 2-13) lt to Victory Cricket Club: 172/7 in 46.5 overs (Rahul S 49, Manjunath C 48, Arnav Ravindra Dere 28; Kushmith DB 3-38).

Select Cricketers: 109 all out in 35.4 overs (Vishal Kumar 41; CB Kumar 5-16, Mohammed Zaid Khan S 2-27, Preetham P 2-20) lt to Jeevanbhimanagar Cricket Club: 110/3 in 20.4 overs (Aarav Bajaj 33; Arpith Rajeev Naganand 2-29).

BEL Colony Recreation Club: 250/9 in 50 overs (Asgar Pasha 66, Manish Gowda A 56, Mohammed Ajmal 33, L Vinith 26; Md Khaiser 2-53, Sujan TS 4-31) bt Huttons Cricket Club: 155 all out in 45.5 overs (G Murali Krishna 26, Ruchitaksh Indrekar 31; Asgar Pasha 2-29, L Vinith 3-18, Rohit V 3-23).

Freelancers Cricket Club: 180/9 in 50 overs (Santhosh 51, KM Bhanu Prakash 26; Nagesh SH 2-42, Nikhil Gowda 2-18, Pradeep Kumar 3-26) lt to Star Sports Club, Nelamangala: 149/6 in 36.5 overs (Nikhil Gowda 28, Manjesh M 53; Santhosh 3-25). Match was interrupted by rain, target was revised to 149 in 40 overs.

Duleep Cricketers: 179 all out in 45.2 overs (Narasimha Yenumula 43, JS Anand 36; Nihal S Patil 5-47, Akshay Bharadwaj 2-41) bt Sangam Cricket Association: 178 all out in 50 overs (Deepak S 28, Gowrav S 33, Shri Teja 43; Roshan Kumar 4-36).

## Brisbane unveils Oly motto

**BRISBANE, AFP:** Organisers of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics have unveiled the Games' official motto: "Believe. Belong. Become".

The slogan culminated a process that involved more than 6,000 Australians having their say.

Andrew Liveris, head of the 2032 organising committee, said it underpinned the core beliefs of what the Games would represent.

"When our time arrives on the world stage our local belief, grit and spirit will shine through, our sense of belonging will be celebrated and shared," he said.

"Believe" represented the power of sport and the Australian spirit, he said.

"Belong" was Brisbane's vision in which everyone was welcome at the Games.

"Become" was the opportunity for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia to harness the Olympics and move into a new era.

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